

**COMPARATIVE DATA ON  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND FAIRFAX COUNTY**



**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT  
REPORT NUMBER 2010-5**

**January 26, 2010**

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# ≡ COMPARATIVE DATA ON MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND FAIRFAX COUNTY ≡

## OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT REPORT 2010-5: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY JANUARY 26, 2010

Montgomery County and Fairfax County are cited frequently as regional peers and competitors. The two jurisdictions are often compared and contrasted, and each is separately touted as the “best” place to live and work in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

This Office of Legislative Oversight report responds to the Montgomery County Council’s request to compile comparative data that evidence some key similarities and differences between Montgomery County and Fairfax County. Following a review of the data, the Council will identify a number of specific comparisons for staff to research and analyze in more detail. This initial report contains data (indicators) for Montgomery County and Fairfax County across the following topic areas:

- Demographics
- Tax rates and budget information
- Economic development
- Transportation
- Housing
- Education
- Public safety
- Public health and vital statistics

For purposes of data integrity, the data presented comes primarily from reputable third-party sources that use reliable methods of data collection and analysis, e.g., Bureau of Economic Analysis, Census Bureau. All data sources are documented in the Appendix.

The table below introduces the two counties. Montgomery County is larger in terms of square miles; Fairfax County has a larger population. Montgomery County has preserved a substantially higher percent of land area as parkland or open space. Comparatively, Fairfax County has a higher population density, meaning more residents per square mile.

	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Structure of Local Government	<u>Council/Executive</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elected nine-member Council: five by district, four at-large</li><li>• Elected Executive</li></ul>	<u>Urban County Executive</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elected 10-member Board of Supervisors: nine by district, one at-large</li><li>• Appointed Executive</li></ul>
Land Area	497 square miles	395 square miles
Percent of Land Area Preserved as Parkland or Open Space	38%	15%
Total Population (2008)	950,680 people	1,015,302 people
Population Density (2008)	1,912 persons/sq. mi.	2,570 persons/sq. mi.

This Executive Summary provides a sample of the comparative data contained in the full report, available online at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/olo](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/olo).

## BUDGET AND TAX INFORMATION

### FY10 BUDGET: REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

The table below shows each county's approved FY10 operating budget (similar in size) and total expenditures per resident (Montgomery slightly higher). The two counties fund their respective budgets in somewhat different ways; specifically, Fairfax County relies more heavily on property taxes, while Montgomery County receives a sizable portion of revenue from the income tax.

<b>FY10 Revenues and Expenditures</b>	<b>Montgomery County</b>	<b>Fairfax County</b>
FY10 Approved Budget	\$4.47 billion	\$4.34 billion
Expenditures per Resident	\$4,706	\$4,316
Sources of Revenue:		
Property Tax Revenue	32%	57%
Income Tax Revenue	27%	None
Other Tax Revenue	7%	11%
All Non-Tax Revenue	34%	32%

### TAX RATES

Comparing tax rates between jurisdictions is tricky, especially because jurisdictions operate within different legal frameworks and have different tax credits, exemptions, and exceptions that apply to individual taxpayers. The current (tax year 2009) property and income tax rates in the table below reflect county and state tax rates, as applicable. Of note, the corporate income tax is levied only by the state in both Maryland and Virginia.

<b>Property and Income Taxes</b>	<b>Montgomery County</b>	<b>Fairfax County</b>
Residential Real Property Tax Rates (per \$100 in assessed value)	From \$0.975 to \$2.835	From \$1.066 to \$1.113
Commercial Real Property Tax Rates (per \$100 in assessed value)	From \$0.975 to \$2.835	From \$1.176 to \$1.443
Business Personal Property Tax Rates (per \$100 in assessed value)	From \$2.158 to \$3.731	\$4.57
Car Tax Rate (per \$100 in assessed value)	None	\$4.57
Personal Income Tax (filing as individual)	From 5.2% to 9.45%	From 2% to 5.75%
Corporate Income Tax	8.25%	6%
Business, Professional and Occupational License Tax (per \$100 Gross Receipts over \$100,000)	None	From \$0.04 to \$0.31

## DEMOGRAPHICS

The data below (from the 2008 American Community Survey Census Update) evidence the diversity of both Montgomery County and Fairfax County. In addition, the populations of each county have similar gender, age, disability status, and educational attainment characteristics. The median household income in both Montgomery County and Fairfax County measures substantially above the national average of \$52,029.

Indicator	Data Year	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Race/Ethnicity of Population:			
Percent White	2008	61%	67%
Percent African American		16%	10%
Percent Asian		13%	16%
Percent Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2008	15%	14%
Percent of Population that is Foreign-Born	2008	30%	28%
Median Household Income	2008	\$93,895	\$107,075
Percent of Families with Income Below Poverty Level	2008	3.5%	3.1%

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Fairfax County has about 200,000 more jobs than Montgomery County; between 2002-2007, the number of jobs increased by 14% in Fairfax County and 8% in Montgomery County. Average earnings in both counties are well above the national average. Among the 3,000+ counties in the United States, Fairfax County's per capita personal income ranks 14<sup>th</sup> while Montgomery County's ranks 15<sup>th</sup>. Currently, the unemployment rate is higher in Montgomery County and the percent of vacant commercial space is higher in Fairfax County.

Indicator	Data Year	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Number of Jobs	2007	654,728	855,842
Average Earnings Per Job* (by place-of-work county)	2007	\$65,694	\$72,838
Per Capita Personal Income (by place-of-residence county)	2007	\$67,525	\$67,909
Unemployment Rate	2009	5.2%	4.7%
Total Commercial Space	2009	137.7 million sq. ft.	189.8 million sq. ft.
Vacant Commercial Space	2009	10.5%	12.0%

\*National average earnings per job is \$48,900.

## TRANSPORTATION

Although the difference in total miles of public roadways is less than 1%, the annual vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are 3 billion higher in Fairfax County compared to Montgomery County. Between 2006 and 2008, the annual VMT increased by 7.2% in Fairfax County and decreased by 2.5% in Montgomery County. The average commute time varies only slightly between counties, but a higher percent of Montgomery County residents use public transportation to get to work.

Indicator	Data Year	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Miles of Public Roadways	2009	2,994 miles	3,120 miles
Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled	2008	7.44 billion	10.46 billion
Average Travel Time to Work for All Residents that Commute	2008	32.9 minutes	30.5 minutes
Percent of Residents Commuting to Work on Public Transportation	2008	15%	9%

## HOUSING

There are more housing units in Fairfax County compared to Montgomery County, although 39% of Montgomery County's housing stock was built before 1970 compared to 27% in Fairfax County. Both the foreclosure rate and number of homeless persons are higher in Fairfax County. The median monthly housing costs are lower in Montgomery County by \$90/month for homeowners and \$140/month for renters.

Indicator	Data Year	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Total Housing Units	2008	365,083 units	393,365 units
Median Housing Value	2008	\$489,400	\$523,600
Median Housing Sales Price	2008	\$395,000	\$371,000
Households Spending 30%+ of Monthly Income on Housing Costs	2008	38% of Owners 52% of Renters	35% of Owners 45% of Renters
Foreclosure Rate	Dec. 08- Nov. 09	2.4%	3.3%
Homeless Persons per 100,000 Population	2008	121 persons	181 persons

## **PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Based on enrollment, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) ranks as the 12<sup>th</sup> largest school system in the country; Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) ranks as the 16<sup>th</sup>. Overall, MCPS spends more per pupil. The percent of students receiving special education services is higher in FCPS; the percent of students eligible for free and reduced meals is higher in MCPS.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Data Year</b>	<b>MCPS</b>	<b>FCPS</b>
Total Public School Enrollment	2009-10	141,777 students	171,790 students
Cost Per Pupil	2009-10	\$14,294	\$12,898
Percent of Students Receiving Special Education Services	2008-09	12%	14%
Percent of Students in English as Second Language Programs	2008-09	12%	12%
Percent of Students Eligible for Free and Reduced Meals	2008-09	27%	22%

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Under the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System, Part I crimes are considered the "more serious" crimes. The Part I crime rate is higher in Montgomery County; although between 2006 and 2008, the rate of Part I crimes increased by 15% in Fairfax compared to 4% in Montgomery. Both counties' rates are well below the national Part I crime rate of 3,745 per 100,000 population.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Data Year</b>	<b>Montgomery County</b>	<b>Fairfax County</b>
Total Part I Crimes	2008	28,311	21,319
Total Part I Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)	2008	2,978	2,051

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND VITAL STATISTICS**

While the overall birth rate is slightly higher in Fairfax County, the birth rate to teen mothers is higher in Montgomery and a similar proportion of low birth weight babies are born in each county. The HIV and infant mortality rates are higher in Montgomery County.

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Data Year</b>	<b>Montgomery County</b>	<b>Fairfax County</b>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	2008	14.4 births	15.1 births
Birth Rate to Teen Mothers (per 1,000 females age 15-19)	2008	20.9 births	17.0 births
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	2008	5.6 deaths	3.7 deaths
HIV Rate (new infections per 100,000 population)	2006	24.3	8.9

# **OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT REPORT 2010-5**

## **COMPARATIVE DATA ON MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND FAIRFAX COUNTY**

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## **Chapter I. Introduction**

### **A. Authority**

Council Resolution 16-1047, *Fiscal Year 2010 Work Program of the Office of Legislative Oversight*, adopted July 21, 2009.

### **B. Purpose and Scope of Report**

Montgomery County and Fairfax County are cited frequently as regional peers and competitors. The two jurisdictions are often compared, contrasted, and similarly touted as the “best” place to live, work, go to school, buy a house, shop, and recreate within the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

This OLO report responds to the County Council’s request to compile data that evidence some of the key similarities and differences between Montgomery County and Fairfax County. The County Council fully anticipated that compiling data on similarities and differences between Montgomery County and Fairfax County would raise as many questions as it answered. As a result, the project design called for a Part II follow-up report to further explore a subset of issues in greater detail.

**Scope of Part I.** For this Part I report, OLO compiled data (indicators) for Montgomery County and Fairfax County across the following issue areas:

- Demographics;
- Tax rates and budget information;
- Economic development;
- Transportation;
- Housing;
- Education;
- Public safety; and
- Public health and vital statistics.

To ensure the integrity of the data presented, with only a few exceptions (noted in the chapters of the report), OLO relied on third-party data sources that compile and publish information on a regular basis, using a reliable method of data collection and analysis, e.g., the Census Bureau, the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis.

**Expected scope of Part II.** Based upon the data compiled for Part I, Chapter XI (page 63) outlines Councilmember Leventhal’s recommended items for further comparative research and analysis. The purpose of the closer examination in Part II will be to pursue potential explanations for and greater detail about the documented differences between the two counties. OLO will seek to identify explanatory factors that are within the purview of the respective County Government (e.g., differences in local laws and programs), as well as differences that are external or outside immediate County Government control (e.g., differences in State laws or structure of government.)



## **C. Organization of Report**

**Chapter II, Overview of Montgomery County and Fairfax County**, provides a general overview of the geography and governmental structure of the two counties.

**Chapters III through X**, present comparative data indicators for Montgomery County and Fairfax County in the following areas: demographics; tax rates and budget information; economic development; transportation; housing; education; public safety; and public health and vital statistics.

**Chapter XI, Next Steps**, provides a recommended scope of work for OLO's Part II follow-up report.

## **D. Methodology**

Office of Legislative Oversight staff members Craig Howard and Sarah Downie prepared this report. OLO gathered information through numerous published and online documents and databases available in hard copy and/or online formats. As noted above, OLO relied primarily on third-party data sources that compile and publish information on a regular basis, including:

- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Maryland Department of Transportation
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Virginia Department of Health
- U.S. Office on Women's Health
- U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Washington Areas Boards of Education
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Virginia Department of State Police
- Maryland State Police

Each of the data chapters in the report begin with a general overview of the data sources used. Additionally, each indicator page lists the source(s) for the data shown on that particular page. A more detailed listing of the data sources used for each table and exhibit in the report is included in the appendix (beginning at A-1).

OLO also circulated drafts of particular chapters of this report for technical review to representatives of Montgomery County Government, Montgomery County Public Schools, and Fairfax County Government.

## **Chapter II. Overview of Montgomery County and Fairfax County**

This chapter provides a general overview of the geography and governmental structure of Montgomery County and Fairfax County:

- **Part A** provides information on total land area and acres of land preserved as parkland or open space;
- **Part B** describes the general structure of the government for Montgomery County; and
- **Part C** describes the general structure of the government for Fairfax County.

Attached on pages 8-9 are the organizational charts included in the respective budget documents for the two counties.

### **A. Land Area and Open Space**

Montgomery County contains 497 square miles (316,000 acres) of land area. The County borders Washington, D.C. and three Maryland counties: Frederick, Prince George's, and Howard. The Potomac River separates Montgomery County from Fairfax County and Loudoun County in Virginia. Montgomery County contains 19 incorporated municipalities: three cities, twelve towns, and four villages.

Approximately 38% of Montgomery County's land is preserved as parkland or open space through agricultural land preservation programs. The County owns 33,912 acres of parkland and there are approximately 15,000 acres of federal and state parkland in the County; in addition, there are 71,353 acres of farmland within the County's "Agricultural Reserve" that have been preserved as open space through agricultural land preservation programs.<sup>1</sup>

Fairfax County contains 395 square miles (252,800 acres) of land area. Fairfax County borders the "independent" Virginia cities of Falls Church and Alexandria, and the Virginia counties of Arlington, Loudoun, and Prince William. The City of Fairfax (another independent city) is located entirely within the borders of Fairfax County.<sup>2</sup> The Potomac River separates Fairfax County from Montgomery County, and the Chesapeake Bay separates Fairfax County from Prince George's County. Fairfax County contains three incorporated towns: Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna.

Approximately 15% of Fairfax County's land area is preserved as parkland. Fairfax County owns approximately 24,000 acres of parkland, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority owns an additional 8,000 acres of parkland in the County, and there are over 5,000 acres of federal and state parkland in the County.

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<sup>1</sup> Total acres of preserved farmland as of June 30, 2009. In Montgomery County, landowners in the Agricultural Reserve can choose from seven separate agricultural land preservation programs, each of which places an easement on the property which limits or prevents future commercial, residential or industrial development of the land.

<sup>2</sup> Under Virginia law, independent cities are not subject to taxation by any county they are located within; further, counties are generally not required to provide government services to residents of independent cities. The City of Fairfax contains 6.3 square miles of land area and has a population of 23,844.

## B. Structure of Government for Montgomery County

In accordance with state law, Montgomery County's primary source of legal authority is the County Charter, a home-rule form of government. As a charter county, the Maryland Constitution and Code provide Montgomery County with a broad array of "express powers." Montgomery County may exercise all authority within its express powers unless specifically prohibited by the Maryland Constitution or statutory law. Further, the Maryland General Assembly is prohibited from enacting laws for Montgomery County within the subject areas covered by the express powers.<sup>3</sup>

Montgomery County's Charter provides for a Council/Executive form of government, which consists of a separate Executive Branch and Legislative Branch. The Legislative Branch is headed by an elected, nine-member County Council. Four of the Councilmembers are elected by all voters in the County; the other five are each elected from one of five Council districts. Major responsibilities of the County Council include:

- Appropriating funds to the annual capital and operating budgets and setting the county property tax rate and other county taxes;
- Enacting all county laws and amendments to the County Code;
- Serving as the Board of Health for Montgomery County;
- Appointing members of the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Board of Appeals and confirming major appointments made by the County Executive; and
- Approving all land use plans prepared by the Montgomery County Planning Board.

The Executive Branch is headed by an elected County Executive. The County Executive is responsible for implementing and enforcing Montgomery County's laws, and for providing executive direction to all departments and offices of the County Government.

**Governmental Units.** Montgomery County includes several organizational components and other entities. An organizational chart for Montgomery County is included on page 8.

- **Montgomery County Government** includes Executive Branch departments and offices, Legislative Branch offices/boards, and judicial offices (Circuit Court, Office of the State's Attorney, and Office of the Sheriff). Montgomery County Government includes numerous departments, offices, boards, and commissions that provide services within the following functional areas: general government; public safety; transportation; health and human services; libraries, culture, and recreation; community development and housing; and the environment.

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<sup>3</sup> Maryland Association of Counties, [http://www.mdcounties.org/counties/forms\\_of\\_government.cfm](http://www.mdcounties.org/counties/forms_of_government.cfm)

- **Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)** operates under the authority of the Montgomery County Board of Education, an eight-member body consisting of seven county residents elected by voters and one student elected by secondary school students. While all non-student members are elected countywide, five run from Board districts (in which they reside) and two run at-large. The Board is the official educational policy-making body in the County, and appoints the Superintendent of Schools.
- **Montgomery College** is the County's two-year community college that operates under the authority of the College's Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees consists of ten members, including one student member. A nominating committee of five Montgomery County residents are appointed by the County Executive (two members), County Council (two members), and College Alumni Association (one member) to recommend candidates for the Board of Trustees to the Governor, who ultimately appoints members (except for the student member). The Board of Trustees appoints the College President.
- **Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)** is a bi-county agency established in state law to manage parkland and provide land use planning within Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Each county operates separate park and planning systems, with shared central administrative functions. The Montgomery County portion of M-NCPPC operates under the authority of the Montgomery County Planning Board, a five-member body whose members (including the full-time Chair) are appointed by the County Council.
- **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)** is a bi-county agency established by state law to provide water and sanitary sewer service within the Washington Suburban Sanitary District, which includes most of Montgomery and Prince George's counties. WSSC is governed by six commissioners, three from Montgomery County and three from Prince George's County, each appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council of the county from which they are appointed. The Commission appoints the General Manager of WSSC.
- **Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC)** is an agency authorized by both state and county law to make housing available to eligible families of low and moderate income and to provide necessary support services to encourage resident self-sufficiency. HOC functions as the County's housing authority. HOC has seven commissioners, appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council, that act as the policy-making body of the agency. The HOC Commissioners appoint HOC's Executive Director.
- **Montgomery County Revenue Authority** is a public corporation, authorized in state law and established in county law, with the purpose of owning and operating self-sustaining projects to support the County's education, economic development, human services, recreation, and transportation needs. The Revenue Authority Board consists of six members who are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

### C. Structure of Government for Fairfax County

Fairfax County operates under an Urban County Executive form of government, an optional form of county government authorized under Virginia law. Unlike “home rule” forms of local government in Maryland, local governments in Virginia operate under a doctrine of limited authority called the “Dillon Rule.” Fairfax County describes the Dillon Rule in Virginia and its impact on county government authority as follows:<sup>4</sup>

The Dillon Rule as a concept is found in all states – meaning that apart from the power ceded to the federal government in the U.S Constitution, the state governments have all the remaining governmental authority. However, most states have adopted various types of “home rule” provisions that permit some or all of their local governments to undertake those governmental functions that are not specifically precluded by the laws of those home rule states. Virginia has not provided such home rule authority to its local governments.

The Virginia Supreme Court and other Virginia courts routinely apply the Dillon Rule to determine whether or not a local government has the legal authority to undertake a disputed action. For well-established county functions, like planning, zoning, and taxation, there are a number of statutes that give the county clear direction and authority to act, but in new areas of governmental concern, the Dillon Rule can serve as a constraint to innovative governmental responses. This means that Fairfax County has limited powers in areas such as raising revenue, and it cannot take certain actions without appropriate action from the state.

Under the Urban County Executive form of government, Fairfax County is headed by a ten-member, elected Board of Supervisors that includes a separately elected Chair. The Chair is elected at-large and the other nine members of the Board are elected by district. The Board of Supervisors’ responsibilities include:<sup>5</sup>

- Establishing county government policy;
- Enacting resolutions and ordinances;
- Approving the budget and setting local tax rates;
- Approving land use plans; and
- Making appointments to various positions, boards, authorities, and commissions.

The Fairfax County Executive is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Executive is the administrative head of the County and is responsible for preparing the annual budget, carrying out the policies established by the Board of Supervisors, and directing the business and administrative procedures of the County Government.

**Governmental Units.** Fairfax County includes several different governmental units or agencies, many of which are briefly summarized below.<sup>6</sup> An organizational chart for Fairfax County is included on page 9.

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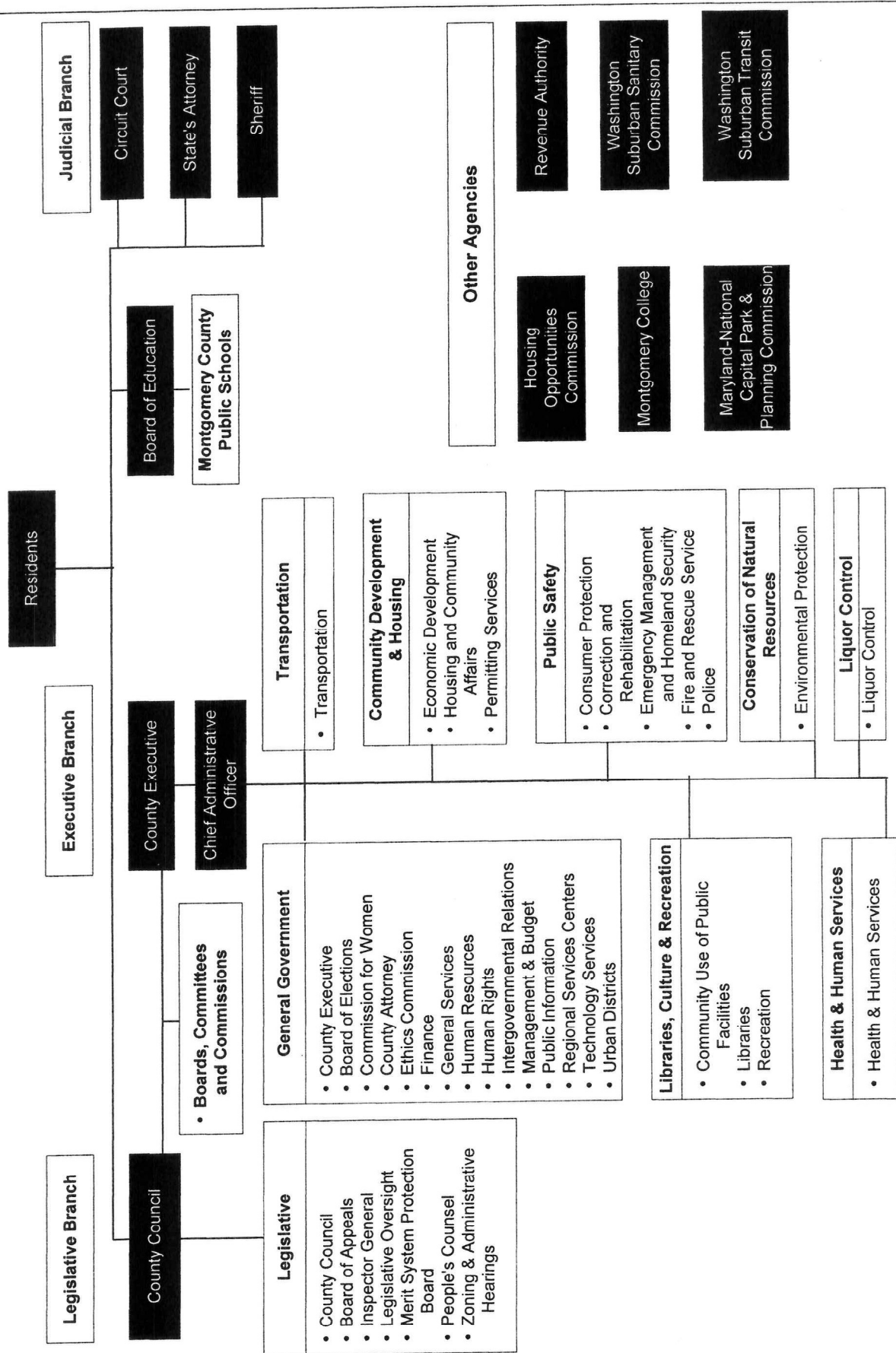
<sup>4</sup> Fairfax County website, *Dillon Rule in Virginia*, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/about/dillon-rule.htm>

<sup>5</sup> Fairfax County website, *About Fairfax County Government*, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/about/>

<sup>6</sup> Descriptions of Fairfax County governmental units and agencies are taken from individual agency websites and the agency summaries included in the *Fairfax County FY 2010 Adopted Budget*.

- **Fairfax County Government** includes a combined legislative/executive branch and judicial offices (Circuit Court, Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, and Office of the Sheriff). Fairfax County Government includes numerous departments, offices, boards, and commissions that provide services within the following functional areas: general government; judicial administration; public safety; public works; health and welfare; parks, recreation, libraries; and community development.
- **Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)** operates under the authority of the Fairfax County School Board, a 12-member body elected by residents. Nine of the Board members serve by district and three serve at-large. The Board sets general school policy, establishes guidelines for the administration of the school system, and appoints the Superintendent of Schools.
- **Fairfax County Park Authority** is responsible for the acquisition, development and maintenance of the parks in the County and runs park programs, classes, camps, and tours. The Authority operates under the policy oversight of a 12-member Park Authority Board in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Board of Supervisors. The members of the Park Authority Board are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.
- **Fairfax County Planning Commission** advises the Board of Supervisors on all matters related to the orderly growth and development of land in Fairfax County. The Board of Supervisors appoints the 12 members of the Planning Commission.
- **Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA)** is an independent authority created by the Virginia General Assembly in 1964 to perform economic development functions in the County. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors appoints seven commissioners to oversee the Economic Development Authority and appropriates funds annually for FCEDA operating expenses.
- **Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA)** is a political subdivision of the State of Virginia, created by the Board of Supervisors and approved by voters in 1965. FCRHA has 11 Commissioners appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The FCRHA has no direct employees; instead, staff from the County's Department of Housing and Community Development provides administrative and operational support to FCRHA.
- **Fairfax Water Authority** is a public water utility chartered by the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Fairfax Water provides drinking water to residents and businesses in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. Fairfax Water is governed by a ten-member Board of Directors, composed of Fairfax County citizens, who are appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.
- **Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB)** is a public agency, established under a state mandate, responsible for providing prevention and other services to residents with or at risk of developmental delay, intellectual disability, mental illness, and alcohol or drug abuse or dependency. The Board has 16 members, 14 appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and one each appointed by the City Councils of Fairfax and Falls Church, and operates under a Memorandum of Agreement with the three local jurisdictions.

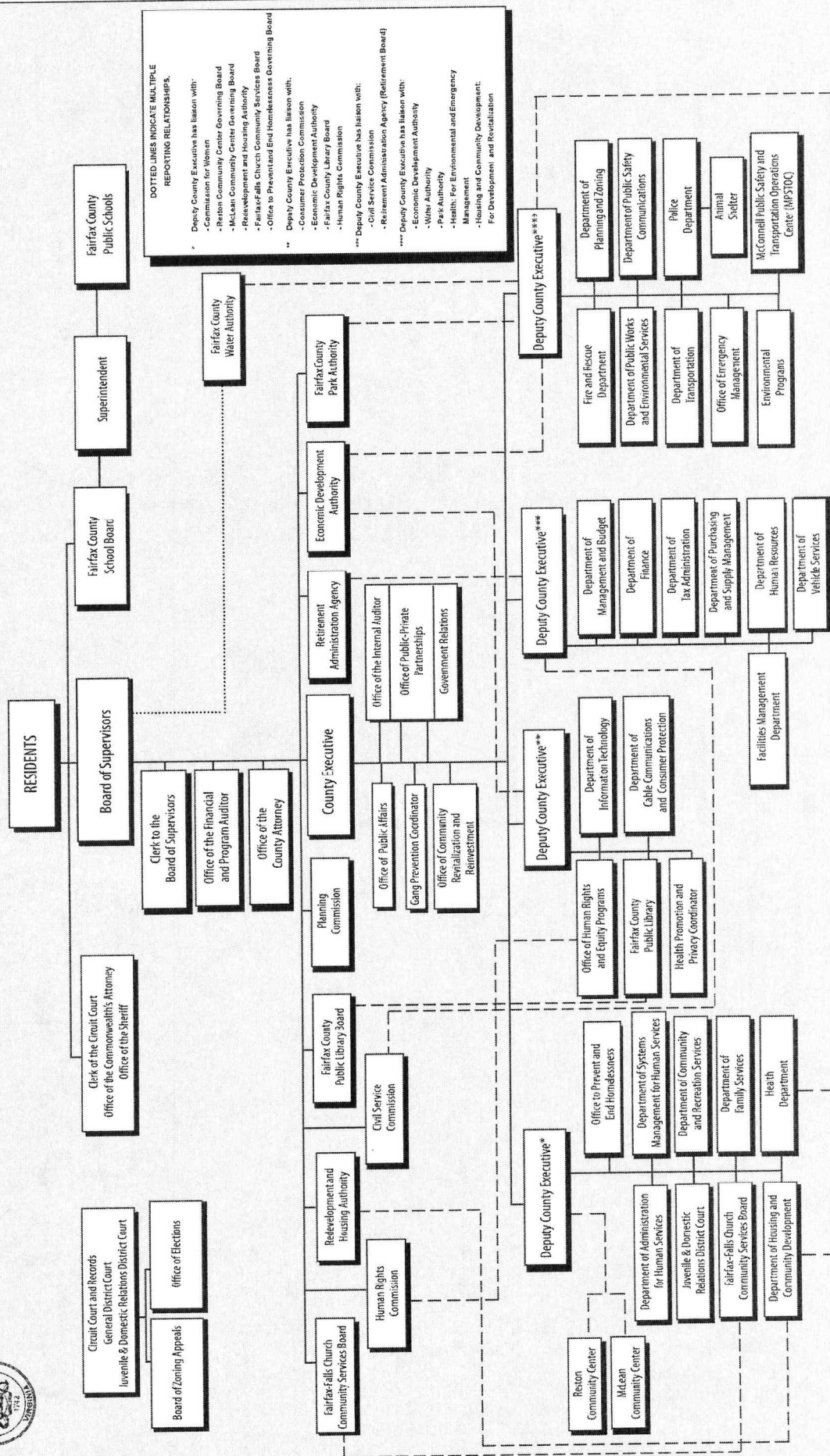
# Montgomery County, Maryland Functional Organization Chart







# ORGANIZATION OF FAIRFAX COUNTY GOVERNMENT





### Chapter III. Demographics

This chapter presents demographic data for Montgomery County and Fairfax County. The table below contains selected chapter highlights.

#### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA – 2008

Indicator	Montgomery County	Fairfax County	Difference
Total Population	950,680 people	1,015,302 people	64,622 people
Population Density	1,912 persons/sq. mi.	2,570 persons/sq. mi.	658 persons/sq. mi.
Race/Ethnicity of Population:			
% White	61%	67%	6%
% African American	16%	10%	6%
% Asian	13%	16%	3%
% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	15%	14%	1%
% of Population that is Foreign-Born	30%	28%	2.1%
Total Households	341,812 households	371,414 households	29,602 households
Median Household Income	\$93,895	\$107,075	\$13,129
% of Families with Income Below Poverty Level	3.5%	3.1%	0.4%

**Data Sources.** The data in this chapter come from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program and annual American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a nationwide survey that produces annual estimates for various demographic, social, housing, and economic data. This chapter uses the ACS “One-Year Estimates” for 2006, 2007, and 2008. 2008 is the most recent year of available data from the ACS.

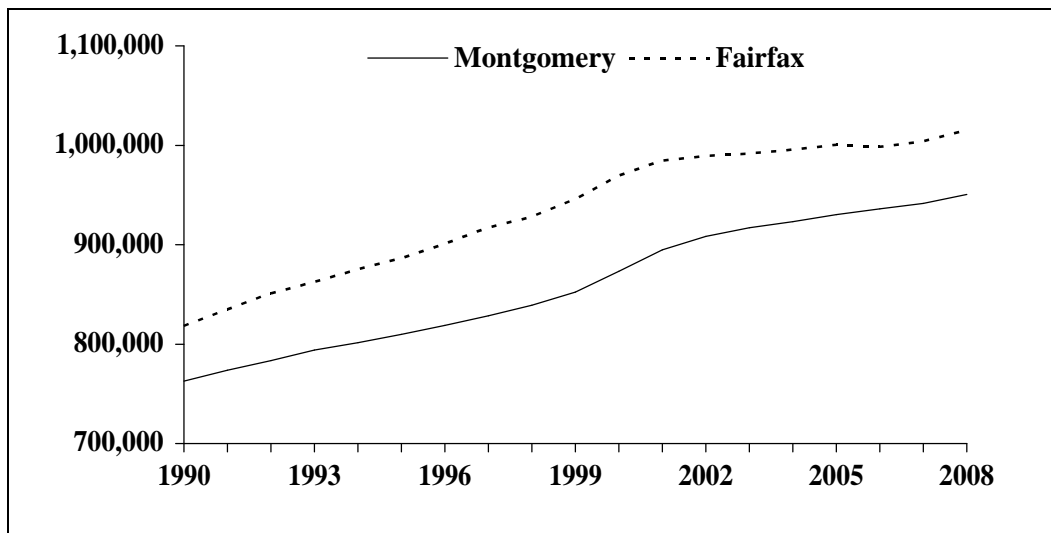
## 1. Total Population

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

**Table 3-1. Total Population – 2000, 2006-2008**

Year	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
2000	873,341	969,749
2006	936,070	998,488
2007	941,491	1,004,151
2008	950,680	1,015,302
% Change, 2000-2008	8.9%	4.7%
% Change, 2006-2008	1.6%	1.7%
Population Density, 2008 (persons per sq. mile)	1,912	2,570

**Exhibit 3-1. Total Population, 1990-2008**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2008, Fairfax County's estimated population (1,015,302) was about 65,000 higher than Montgomery County's estimated population (950,680). These totals equate to 2,570 persons per square mile in Fairfax County and 1,912 persons per square mile in Montgomery County.
- Fairfax County's population has been consistently higher than Montgomery County's since 1990; however the increase in Montgomery County's population between 2000 and 2008 (8.9%) was nearly double that of Fairfax County (4.7%).

## 2. Population Characteristics

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey

**Table 3-2. Population Characteristics, 2008**

Population Characteristics	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
<b>Gender</b>		
% Male	48%	49%
% Female	52%	51%
<b>Age</b>		
Median Age (years)	39.0	39.7
% 18 years and over	76%	76%
% 65 years and over	13%	10%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
% White	61%	67%
% African American	16%	10%
% Asian	13%	16%
% Other*	9%	8%
% Hispanic or Latino (any race)	15%	14%
<b>Veteran Status</b>		
% Civilian veterans (18 years +)	7%	11%
<b>Disability Status</b>		
% With a disability (non-institutionalized population)	7%	7%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
% High school graduate or higher	91%	91%
% Bachelor's degree or higher	56%	59%
% Graduate/professional degree	29%	28%

\*Includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Some Other Race, and Two of More Races

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2008, the populations of Montgomery County and Fairfax County had the same or very similar gender, age, disability status, and educational attainment characteristics.
- Differences in population characteristics of the two counties for 2008 were in veteran status and race/ethnicity. Fairfax County's population contained a higher proportion of civilian veterans (11% to 7%) than Montgomery County's. In terms of race/ethnicity, Montgomery County's population had a 6% higher proportion of African-American residents while Fairfax County's population had a 6% higher proportion of White residents.

### 3. Foreign-Born Population and Language Spoken at Home

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey.

Foreign-born population refers to residents who were born outside of the United States, excluding those who were born abroad to American parents.

**Table 3-3. Foreign-Born Population and Region of Birth, 2008**

Foreign-Born Population	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
% Total Population that is Foreign-Born	30%	28%
<b>Region of Birth</b>		
Asia	37%	52%
Latin America	34%	29%
Europe	14%	8%
Africa	13%	10%
Other*	2%	1%

\*Other includes Oceania and Northern America

**Table 3-4. Primary Language Spoken at Home (Total Population 5 Years and Older), 2008**

Language	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
English only	62%	65%
Spanish	14%	12%
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	10%	11%
Other Indo-European languages	10%	8%
Other languages	4%	4%

#### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Foreign-born residents represented close to one-third of the population in 2008 for both Montgomery County (30%) and Fairfax County (28%).
- The regions of birth for the foreign-born population differed between the counties in 2008. Fairfax County had a 15% higher proportion of its foreign-born population from Asia, while Montgomery County had a higher proportion born in Latin America (by 5%), Europe (by 6%), and Africa (by 3%).
- Montgomery and Fairfax had a similar distribution for primary language spoken at home.

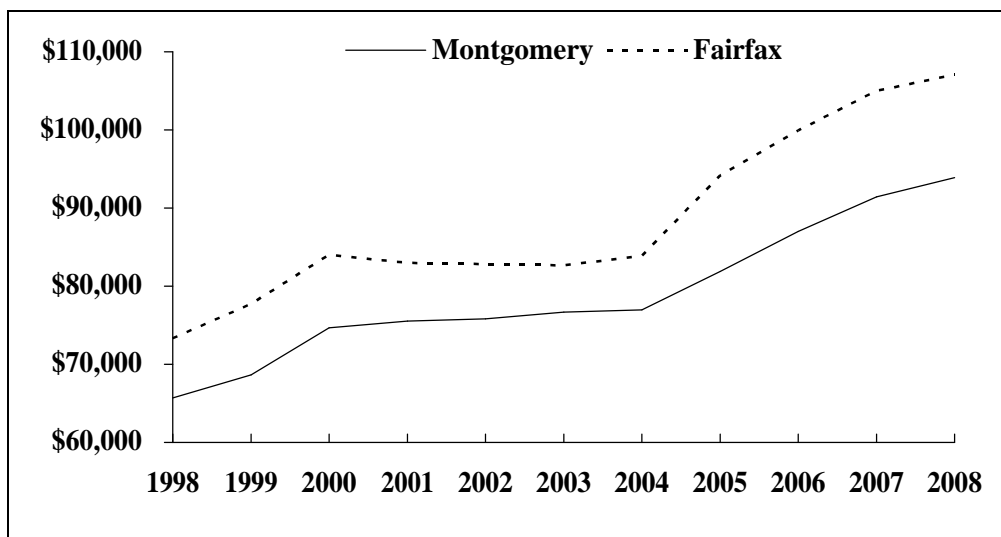
#### 4. Households and Household Income

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey and Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates Program. The Census Bureau defines “Households” as all people who occupy a single housing unit. A “Family Household” consists of a householder and one or more people living in the household who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption. A “Non-Family Household” consists of an individual living alone or a group of non-related individuals.

**Table 3-5. Total, Type, Size, and Income of Households, 2006-2008**

Household Information	Montgomery County			Fairfax County		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Total Households	341,438	343,540	341,812	363,328	366,243	371,414
% Family Households	70%	69%	68%	69%	69%	70%
% Non-Family Households	30%	31%	32%	31%	31%	30%
Average Household Size	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7
Median Household Income	\$87,019	\$91,440	\$93,895	\$99,934	\$104,984	\$107,075

**Exhibit 3-2. Median Household Income, 1998-2008**



#### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Fairfax County had around 30,000 more households than Montgomery County in 2008, although the breakdown of family and non-family households and average household size were similar for the two counties.
- The median household income in Fairfax County for 2008 (\$107,075) was around \$13,000 greater than in Montgomery County (\$93,895). The U.S median household income for 2008 was \$52,029.

## 5. Income Assistance and Poverty

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey. The Census Bureau defines persons or families as below the poverty level if their total income is less than the poverty threshold specified for that person or family's specific characteristics (i.e., age of householder, size of family, etc.).

**Table 3-6. Households Receiving Income Assistance and People/Families Below the Poverty Level, 2006-2008**

Category	Montgomery County			Fairfax County		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
<b>Percent of Households Receiving:</b>						
Cash public assistance income	1.3%	1.0%	1.0%	0.8%	0.5%	0.8%
Food Stamp benefits (in past 12 months)	2.2%	2.6%	3.0%	1.7%	1.5%	2.0%
<b>Percent of People/ Families with Income Below Poverty Level (in past 12 months)</b>						
All People	4.6%	4.8%	5.9%	5.3%	4.9%	4.8%
All Families	3.3%	2.8%	3.5%	3.6%	3.2%	3.1%
Families with Female-Headed Household	10.2%	9.5%	11.7%	9.7%	10.5%	9.4%

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Montgomery County and Fairfax County have had a similar percentage of households receiving cash public assistance over the past three years, while Montgomery County has had an approximately 1% greater proportion of households receiving food stamp benefits.
- In 2008, 5.9% of all people and 3.5% of all families had incomes below the poverty level in Montgomery County compared with 4.8% (of all people) and 3.1% (of all families) in Fairfax County.
- In both counties, the poverty rate for families with female-headed households (defined as having no husband present) was at least three times higher than the poverty rate for all families.

## **Chapter IV. Tax Rates and Budget Information**

This chapter presents state and local tax rates and FY10 budget information (revenues and expenditures) for Montgomery County and Fairfax County. The tax rate information provided is for Tax Levy Year 2009, which applies to Fiscal Year 2010. The budget data represent information from the FY10 approved budgets for the two counties.

<b>Tax Rates</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
Property Tax Rates	17
Income Tax Rates	18
Land Record Transaction Tax Rates	19
Other Tax Rates	20
<b>Budget Information</b>	
FY10 Approved Revenue	21
FY10 Approved Expenditures	22
Employee Salaries	23

Since Montgomery County and Fairfax County operate under different grants of state authority and have adopted different government structures, comparing tax and budget data between these two jurisdictions is complex. In reviewing the data presented in this chapter, some important facts to keep in mind include:

- The revenue and expenditure data are the budgeted totals for Montgomery County and Fairfax County as of July 1, 2009. The data do not reflect the changes in revenue projections or reductions in expenditures that have occurred since the FY10 budgets were approved last summer.
- Tax rates provided are the base rates set by the County or State. Additional calculations/scenarios would be required to reflect any tax credits, exceptions, or exemptions available at the County or State level, e.g., the Homestead Property Tax Credit in Montgomery County, the Tax Relief for Seniors Property Tax Credit in Fairfax County, income tax deductions, or goods and services that are exempt from sales tax.
- Montgomery County and Fairfax County have different property assessment cycles. In Montgomery County, all real property is assessed by the State every three years and state law requires that any increase in the taxable assessment be “phased-in” over the next three years. In Fairfax County, all real property is assessed each year by the County with no phase-in period for increases in taxable assessments.

## 1. Property Tax Rates

**Sources of Data:** Montgomery County Department of Finance, Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration, Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget

**Table 4-1. Property Tax Rates, Tax Year 2009**  
(Rates all per \$100 in assessed value; does not include available tax credits, exemptions, etc.)

		Montgomery County	State of Maryland	Fairfax County	Commonwealth of Virginia
Residential Real Property Tax Rates	Base Rate	\$0.683	\$0.112	\$1.04	None
	Special Service Areas*	\$0.143-0.537	None	\$0.026-0.073	None
	Municipal Districts	\$0.008-1.897	None	None	None
	<b>Tax Rate Range</b>	<b>\$0.975-2.835</b>		<b>\$1.066-1.113</b>	
Commercial Real Property Tax Rates	Base Rate			\$1.15	None
	Special Service Areas*	Same as residential (above)		\$0.136-0.403	None
	Municipal District			None	None
	<b>Tax Rate Range</b>	<b>\$0.975-2.835</b>		<b>\$1.176-1.443</b>	
Business Personal Property Tax Rates	Base Rate	\$1.707	None	\$4.57	None
	Special Service Areas*	\$0.357-1.341	None	None	None
	Municipal District	\$0.04-1.45	None	None	None
	<b>Tax Rate Range</b>	<b>\$2.158-3.731</b>		<b>\$4.57</b>	
Car Tax Rate** (Personal Property)	Base Rate	None	None	\$4.57	None

\*Both counties have some special service area taxes that apply countywide (e.g., fire district tax in Montgomery, pest prevention tax in Fairfax) and some that apply only to property located within a specified area (e.g., parking lot districts tax in Montgomery, Route 28 transportation tax in Fairfax).

\*\*For personal use vehicles assessed below \$20,000, the State of Virginia currently pays 70% of the tax (through a subsidy to the County) and the taxpayer pays the remaining 30%. The taxpayer is responsible all taxes on any vehicle assessment exceeding \$20,000.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration, [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/DTA/cartax\\_pptra\\_qualification.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/DTA/cartax_pptra_qualification.htm)



## 2. Income Tax Rates

**Sources of Data:** State of Maryland Comptroller's Office, Virginia Department of Taxation, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

**Table 4-2. Income Tax Rates, Tax Year 2009**

	Montgomery County	State of Maryland		Fairfax County	Commonwealth of Virginia
Personal Income Tax (filing as individual taxpayers)	3.2%	<u>Income:</u> <\$3K \$3K-150K \$150K-300K \$300K-500K \$500K-1 million >\$1 million	<u>Rate:</u> 2-4% 4.75% 5.0% 5.25% 5.5% 6.25%	None	<u>Income:</u> <u>Rate:</u> <5K        2-3% \$5K-17K   5.0% >\$17K     5.75%
<b>Tax Rate Range</b>	<b>5.2-9.45%</b>			<b>2-5.75%</b>	
Corporate Income Tax	None	8.25%		None	6%
Business, Professional and Occupational License Tax (per \$100 Gross Receipts over \$100,000)	None	None		\$0.04-0.31	None

### 3. Land Record Transaction Tax Rates

**Sources of Data:** Montgomery County Code (§52-16B, §52-21), Virginia Department of Taxation, Fairfax County Circuit Court. The recordation, deed of conveyance, and transfer taxes are associated with the sale or transfer of real property, or refinancing of mortgage on real property.

**Table 4-3. Land Record Transaction Tax Rates, Tax Year 2009**

	Montgomery County	State of Maryland	Fairfax County	Commonwealth of Virginia
Recordation Tax (per \$500 of transaction)	Amt. up to \$500K \$3.45 Amt. above \$500K \$5.00	None	\$0.4165	\$1.25
<b>Tax Rate Range</b>	<b>\$3.45-\$5.00</b>		<b>\$1.6665</b>	
Deed of Conveyance Tax (per \$500 of transaction)	None	None	None	\$0.50**
Transfer Tax*	Residential 0.25-1% Nonresidential 1% Farmland 1-6% Condo Conv. 4% Rezoned 6%	0.5%	None	\$1 fee per transfer

\*Montgomery County's transfer tax rate for residential property varies based on the value of the property, but all properties valued a \$70K or more are subject to the 1% rate. The transfer tax rate for farmland varies by how many years the land has been assessed as agricultural use and whether development or nonagricultural uses are allowed. The transfer tax rate for rezoned property applies to property that is being rezoned to a more intensive use at the time of the transfer.

\*\*The revenues from the deed of conveyance tax are split equally between the State and the locality of the property. As a result, Fairfax County receives \$0.25 per \$500 of transaction from this tax.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Virginia Department of Taxation, *Virginia Tax Facts*, Revised February 2008.

## 4. Other Tax Rates

**Sources of Data:** State of Maryland Comptroller's Office and Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Montgomery County Council Resolution 16-553, Montgomery County Department of Finance, Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority

**Table 4-4. Sales, Excise, and Other Tax Rates, Tax Year 2009**

Type of Tax	Montgomery County	State of Maryland	Fairfax County	Commonwealth of Virginia
Sales and Use Tax	None	6%	1%	4%
			<b>Total Rate: 5%</b>	
Hotel/Motel Tax	7%	None	4%	None
Phone/Communications Tax (per month)	\$2.00/line \$0.75 E911 fee	\$0.25 E911 fee	5%	\$0.75 E911 fee
Admissions/Amusement Tax	7%	None	None	None
Energy/Utility Tax* (minimum residential rates)	Elec.: \$0.0052237964 (per kWh) Gas: \$0.0449864339 (per therm)	None	Elec.: \$0.00605 (per kWh) Gas: \$0.05259 (per CCF)	Elec.: \$0.00099 (per kWh) Gas: \$0.0195 (per CCF)
Gasoline Tax (per gallon)	None	\$0.235	None**	\$0.181
Cigarette Tax (per pack)	None	\$2.00	\$0.30	\$0.30
			<b>Total Rate: \$0.60</b>	
Alcohol Tax (per gallon)	None	Spirits: \$1.50 Wine: \$0.40 Beer: \$0.09	None	Spirits: 20%*** Wine: \$1.51 Beer: \$0.26

\*Montgomery County's fuel energy tax also includes separate rates for steam, coal, fuel oil, and liquefied petroleum gas.

\*\*While Fairfax does not have a County gas tax, there is a 2% regional gas tax in all localities within the Northern Virginia Transportation District (which includes Fairfax County).

\*\*\*In Virginia, the Commonwealth directly controls the sale of all distilled spirits. According to the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the retail prices for distilled spirits include 20% state tax.

## 5. FY10 Budgeted Revenues

**Sources of Data:** Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget, *Approved FY10 Operating Budget*; Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget, *FY10 Approved Budget*.

The Montgomery County total includes all revenue accounted for in tax supported and non-tax supported funds for Montgomery County Government, MCPS, Montgomery College, and M-NCPPC. The Fairfax County total includes all revenue accounted for in the County's general fund and special revenue funds, as well as real property tax revenue accounted for in one agency fund (Route 28 Taxing District Agency Fund) and one capital project fund (Penny for Affordable Housing Capital Project Fund). To allow for comparability with the Montgomery County budget data, Fairfax County's total excludes revenue accounted for in capital project funds (except as previously noted), sewer enterprise funds, and trust funds.

**Table 4-5: Total FY10 Budgeted Revenue, as of July 1, 2010 (\$'s in millions)\***

Source of Revenue	Montgomery County		Fairfax County	
	Budgeted Revenue	% of Total	Budgeted Revenue	% of Total
Real Property Tax	\$1,452	32%	\$2,239	51%
Personal Property Tax			\$281	6%
Income Tax	\$1,215	27%	--	--
Sales and Use Tax	--	--	\$152	4%
Business License Tax	--	--	\$133	3%
Energy Tax	\$130	3%	\$50	1%
Transfer Tax	\$65	1%	--	--
Recordation Tax	\$61	1%	\$16	<1%
Deed of Conveyance Tax	--	--	\$5	<1%
Telephone/Communications Tax	\$33	1%	\$75	2%
Hotel/Motel Tax	\$20	<1%	\$20	<1%
Cigarette Tax	--	--	\$9	<1%
Other	--	--	\$8	<1%
Admissions/Amusement Tax	\$2	<1%	--	--
<b>Subtotal Tax Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,978</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>\$2,989</b>	<b>68%</b>
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$855	19%	\$966	22%
All Other (charges, fees, fines, etc.)	\$643	14%	\$447	10%
<b>Subtotal Non-Tax Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,498</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>\$1,413</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,476</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$4,402</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Fairfax County's Intergovernmental Revenue includes the car tax reimbursement from the State (\$211 million in FY10). The FY10 budgeted revenue data do not reflect adjustments in revenue projections that have occurred since the budgets were approved last summer.

## 6. FY10 Budgeted Expenditures

**Sources of Data:** Montgomery County Office of Management and Budget, *Approved FY10 Operating Budget*; Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget, *FY10 Approved Budget*.

The Montgomery County totals include all operating expenditures accounted for in tax supported and non-tax supported funds for Montgomery County Government, MCPS, Montgomery College, and M-NCPPC. The Fairfax County total includes all expenditures accounted for in the County's general fund and the County's special revenue funds. To allow for comparability with the Montgomery County budget data, Fairfax County's total excludes expenditures accounted for in capital project funds, sewer enterprise funds, trust funds, and agency funds.

**Table 4-6: Total FY10 Budgeted Operating Expenditures, as of July 1, 2010 (\$'s in millions)\***

Agency or Fund	Budgeted Expenditures	% of Total
Montgomery County		
Montgomery County Public Schools	\$2,201	49%
Montgomery County Government	\$1,630	36%
Montgomery College	\$266	6%
Debt Service (including school debt service)	\$248	6%
M-NCPPC	\$129	3%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$4,474	100%
Expenditures per Resident** (in dollars)	\$4,706	
Fairfax County		
Fairfax County Public Schools Special Revenue Funds	\$2,269	52%
Fairfax County General Fund	\$1,209	28%
Fairfax County Special Revenue Funds	\$585	14%
Debt Service (including school debt service)	\$279	6%
Total Operating Expenditures	\$4,342	100%
Expenditures per Resident** (in dollars)	\$4,316	

\*The FY10 expenditure data do not reflect reductions in expenditures or planned savings that have occurred since the budgets were approved last summer.

\*\*Calculated using 2008 population data from the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program.

## 7. Employee Salaries

**Source of Data:** Montgomery County Office of Human Resources *Personnel Management Review, April 2009*

**Table 4-7. FY09 Minimum and Maximum Salary Comparisons for a Sample of County Government Positions\***

Position	Minimum Salary		Maximum Salary	
	Montgomery County	Fairfax County	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Accountant/Auditor III	\$51,600	\$51,100	\$85,500	\$85,100
Building Service Worker II	\$27,200	\$23,300	\$42,500	\$38,800
Community Health Nurse II	\$51,600	\$48,600	\$85,500	\$81,000
Correctional Officer III	\$46,800	\$47,400	\$70,800	\$70,000
Engineer III	\$56,600	\$58,800	\$93,900	\$98,000
Equipment Operator I	\$34,500	\$32,100	\$56,000	\$53,400
Firefighter/Rescuer III	\$45,900	\$48,900	\$74,300	\$72,200
Fire/Rescuer Lieutenant	\$55,500	\$58,900	\$89,900	\$87,000
Human Resources Specialist III	\$56,600	\$51,100	\$93,900	\$85,100
HVAC Mechanic I	\$39,200	\$40,300	\$64,600	\$67,200
Librarian I	\$47,000	\$42,300	\$77,800	\$70,400
Permitting Services Inspector III	\$51,600	\$42,300	\$85,500	\$70,400
Planning Specialist III	\$51,600	\$51,100	\$85,500	\$85,100
Police Officer I	\$47,000	\$47,100	\$76,000	\$69,600
Police Sergeant	\$59,800	\$56,900	\$96,800	\$84,000
Principal Admin Aide	\$33,100	\$30,600	\$53,500	\$51,000
Procurement Specialist II	\$51,100	\$49,300	\$81,500	\$85,100
Recreation Specialist	\$47,000	\$44,300	\$77,800	\$73,900
Social Worker II	\$51,600	\$48,600	\$85,500	\$81,000
Therapist II	\$54,100	\$48,600	\$89,600	\$81,000

\*Salaries rounded to the nearest hundred dollars.

## Chapter V. Economic Development

This chapter presents economic development data for Montgomery County and Fairfax County. The table below contains selected chapter highlights.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DATA

Indicator	Montgomery County	Fairfax County	Difference
<b>2007 Data</b>			
Number of Business Establishments	27,264	28,949	1,685
Number of Jobs	654,728	855,842	201,114
Total Employee Earnings (by place-of-work County)	\$43.0 billion	\$62.3 billion	\$19.3 billion
Average Earnings Per Job (by place-of-work County)	\$65,694	\$72,838	\$7,144
Per Capita Personal Income (by place-of-residence County)	\$67,525	\$67,909	\$384
<b>2009 Data</b>			
Unemployment Rate (by place-of-residence County)	5.2%	4.7%	0.4%
Total Commercial Space	137.7 million sq. ft.	189.8 million sq. ft.	52.1 million sq. ft.
Commercial Space Vacancy Rate	10.5%	12.0%	1.5%

**Data Sources.** The data in this chapter, except for that on commercial space, come from the Census Bureau and Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) within the U.S. Department of Labor. Unlike most other data sources in this report, all Fairfax County data from the BEA include data from Fairfax City and the City of Falls Church.

All data on commercial space comes from CoStar, a private company that maintains data and information related to commercial real estate. All data in this chapter are provided up through the most recent full calendar year available from the data source.

## 1. Business Establishments

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, County Business Patterns. The Census Bureau defines a business establishment as “a single physical location where business transactions take place and for which payroll and employment records are kept.” The data exclude public sector employers, private household businesses, and businesses in certain private industries such as crop and animal production and rail transportation.

**Table 5-1. Number of Business Establishments by Size, 2007**

Number of Employees	Montgomery County		Fairfax County	
	Number	% of total	Number	% of total
1-4 employees	15,364	56%	15,708	54%
5-9 employees	4,766	17%	4,776	16%
10-19 employees	3,275	12%	3,742	13%
20-49 employees	2,338	9%	2,661	9%
50-99 employees	820	3%	1,087	4%
100-249 employees	520	2%	649	2%
250-499 employees	121	< 1%	204	1%
500-999 employees	33	< 1%	74	< 1%
1,000 or more employees	27	< 1%	48	< 1%
<b>Total Business Establishments</b>	<b>27,264</b>		<b>28,949</b>	

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2007, there were 1,685 more business establishments in Fairfax County than in Montgomery County.
- Over one-half of the business establishments in Montgomery County (56%) and Fairfax County (54%) were small businesses with no more than four employees.
- In 2007, there were twice as many business establishments with 500 or more employees in Fairfax County (122 total) as in Montgomery County (60 total).



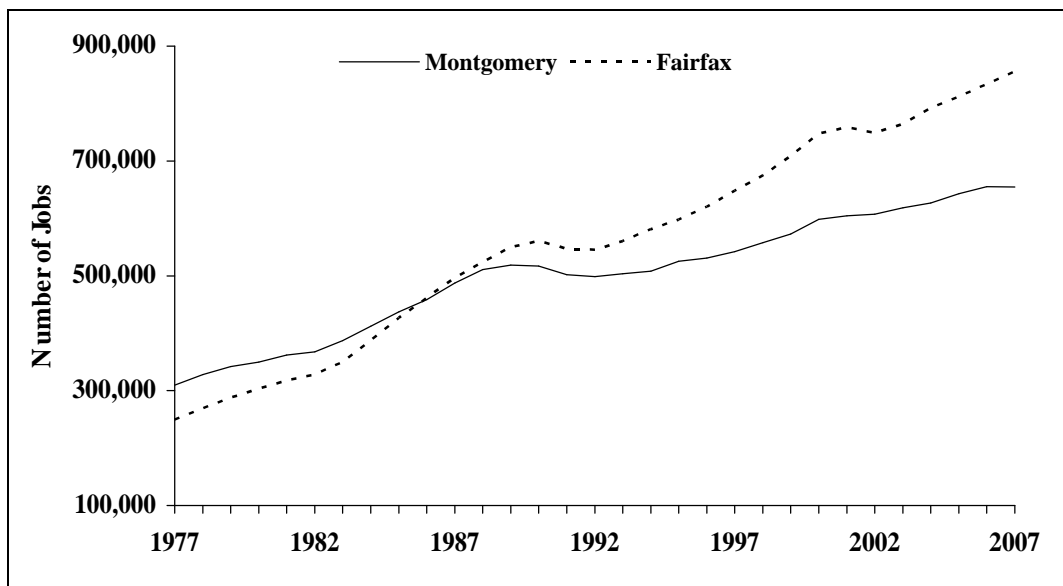
## 2. Number of Jobs

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). BEA data for “number of jobs” include private and public sector jobs, count full-time and part-time jobs equally, and do not include unpaid family workers or volunteers. These data measure the total number of jobs, not workers, in each county.

**Table 5-2. Number of Jobs in Montgomery and Fairfax by Employment Sector, 2007**

Employment Sector	Montgomery County		Fairfax County	
	Jobs	% of Total	Jobs	% of Total
Private Employment	565,449	86%	748,075	87%
Public/Government Employment	88,488	14%	107,597	13%
Farm Employment	791	< 1%	170	< 1%
<b>All Employment Sectors</b>	<b>654,728</b>		<b>855,842</b>	

**Exhibit 5-1. Total Number of Jobs in Montgomery and Fairfax, 1977-2007**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2007, there were 654,728 jobs in Montgomery County and 855,842 jobs in Fairfax County, a difference of around 200,000 jobs.
- While the number of jobs increased in both counties over the past 30 years, the rate of job growth has been higher in Fairfax County. Between 2002 and 2007, the number of jobs in Fairfax County increased by 14% (from 748,981 to 855,842) and the number of jobs in Montgomery County increased by 8% (from 607,271 to 654,728).

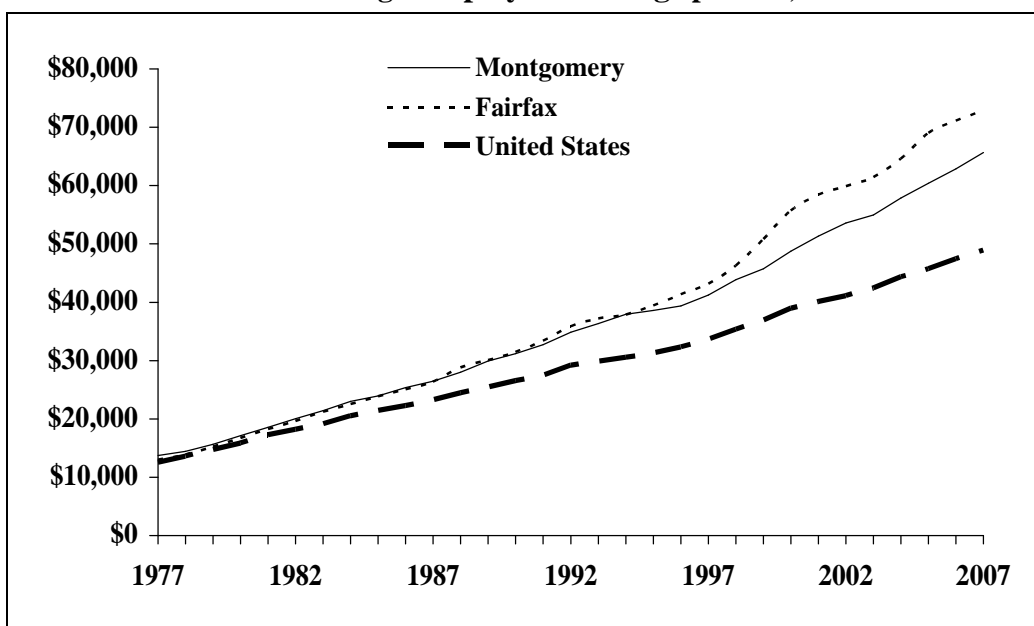
### 3. Employee Earnings

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Total Employee Earnings data are an aggregate of what businesses and/or employers located in each county pay their employees (including wage and salary disbursements, supplements to wages and salaries, and income for self-employed individuals). The data are collected by work location and measure the income earned by people working (not living) in each county.

**Table 5-3. Employee Earnings by Work Location, 2007**

	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Total Employee Earnings	\$43.0 billion	\$62.3 billion
Average Employee Earnings per Job	\$65,694	\$72,838

**Exhibit 5-2. Average Employee Earnings per Job, 1977-2007**



#### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- After having similar average earnings per job for many years, Fairfax County's average earnings began to grow at a higher rate than Montgomery County's in the mid-1990s. Both counties are well above the national average.
- In 2007, Fairfax County employers generated \$19 billion more in employee earnings than Montgomery County employers (\$62 billion compared to \$43 billion).
- The average employee earnings per job in 2007 were about \$7,000 higher in Fairfax County (\$73K) than in Montgomery County (\$66K).

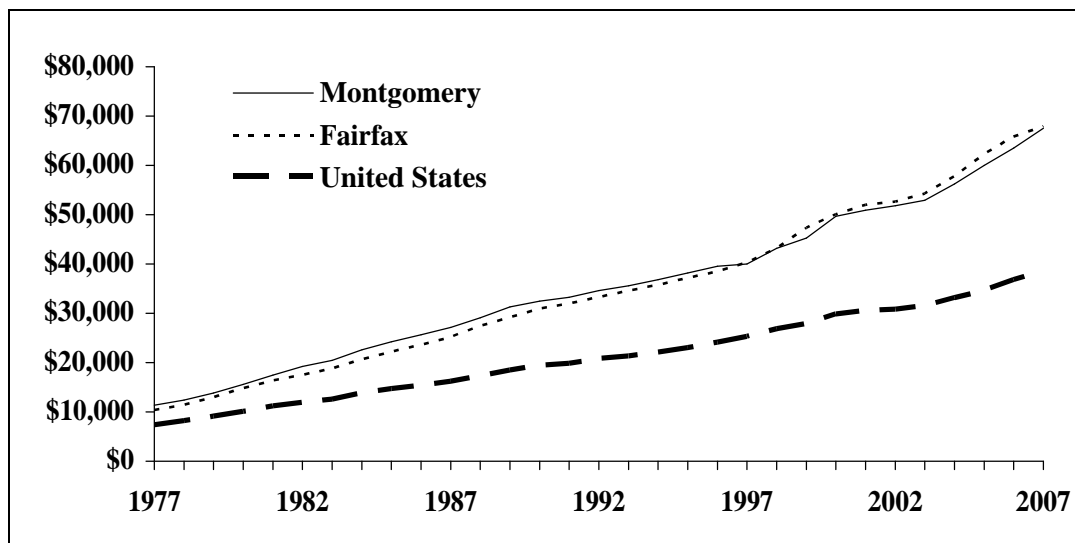
## 4. Personal Income

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). BEA defines “personal income” as the income received by, or on behalf of, all the individuals who live in each county (regardless of where they work). “Per capita personal income” is total personal income divided by the population of each county.

**Table 5-4. Per Capita Personal Income by Place of Residence, 2007**

	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Total Personal Income (by place of residence)	\$63.6 billion	\$70.5 billion
<b>Per Capita Personal Income</b>	<b>\$67,525</b>	<b>\$67,909</b>
<b>Per Capita Personal Income Rank (Among All U.S. Counties)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>

**Exhibit 5-3. Per Capita Personal Income in Montgomery and Fairfax, 1977-2007**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- The per capita personal income in both Montgomery and Fairfax County has been similar in value and rate of growth over the past 30 years, and both are well above the national value.
- Out of the 3,000+ counties in the United States, Fairfax County’s 2007 per capita personal income ranked 14<sup>th</sup> while Montgomery County’s ranked 15<sup>th</sup>.
- In 2007, the total personal income for Fairfax County residents was about \$7 billion higher than the total for Montgomery County residents. Per capita personal income, which accounts for population differences, was approximately \$400 higher in Fairfax County (\$67,909) than in Montgomery County (\$67,525).

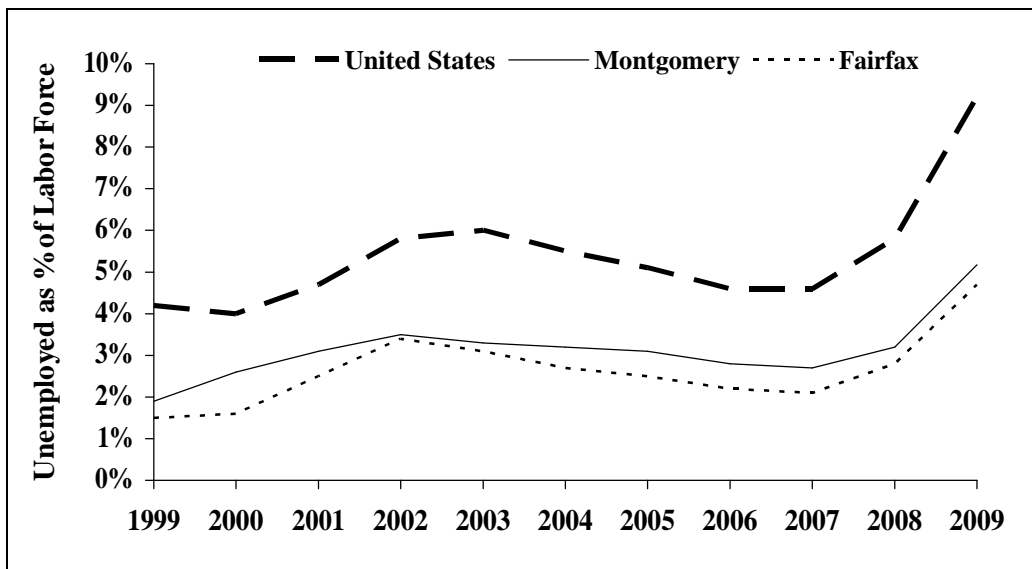
## 5. Unemployment

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The BLS defines “unemployed” as persons aged 16 years and older who had no employment, were available for work (except for temporary illness), and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the previous four-week period. The 1999-2008 data rates are the annual (12-month) averages. The 2009 data are a 10-month average through October 2009. The unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

**Table 5-5. Employment by Place of Residence, 2008-2009**

	Montgomery County		Fairfax County	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Employed	497,249	484,364	578,895	569,521
<b>Change from Previous Year</b>	--	<b>(12,885)</b>	--	<b>(9,374)</b>
Unemployed	16,400	26,481	16,910	28,039
<b>Change from Previous Year</b>	--	<b>10,081</b>	--	<b>11,129</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>

**Exhibit 5-4. Unemployment Rate, 1999-2009**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- The unemployment rates in Montgomery County and Fairfax County have been fairly similar over the past 10 years, and the rates in both counties have been below the national average.
- From 2008 to 2009 (through October), the number of unemployed residents increased by about 10,000 in Montgomery County and 11,000 in Fairfax County, leading to a 2% increase in the unemployment rate for each county.

## 6. Commercial Space

**Source of Data:** CoStar Realty Information, Inc. Commercial space listed as “flex” includes property that can be used as an office, laboratory, warehouse or other industrial purpose, or a combination of these purposes.

**Table 5-6. Total Commercial Space (millions of square feet), 2007-2009**

Year	Type of Space	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
<b>2007</b> (Year End)	Flex/Industrial	29.8	41.3
	Office	64.7	104.3
	Retail	40.7	39.5
	Total	135.2 million sq. ft.	185.1 million sq. ft.
<b>2008</b> (Year End)	Flex/Industrial	29.8	41.3
	Office	65.6	107.8
	Retail	40.7	39.6
	Total	136.1 million sq. ft.	188.7 million sq. ft.
<b>2009</b> (Current*)	Flex/Industrial	29.8	41.3
	Office	67.0	108.8
	Retail	40.9	39.7
	Total	137.7 million sq. ft.	189.8 million sq. ft.
<b>% Percent Change in Total Commercial Space, 2007-2009</b>		<b>1.9%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>% Vacant Commercial Space*</b>		<b>10.5%</b>	<b>12.0%</b>

\*As of October 21, 2009. Percent vacant includes vacant sublet space.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2009, there was about 52 million square feet more of commercial space in Fairfax County than in Montgomery County. The biggest difference was in office space, with 109 million square feet in Fairfax County and 67 million square feet in Montgomery County.
- From 2007 to 2009, Montgomery County’s total commercial space increased by 1.9%, while Fairfax County’s commercial space increased by 2.5%.
- As of October 2009, Montgomery County had a lower vacancy rate for total commercial space (10.5%) than Fairfax County (12%).

## Chapter VI. Transportation

This chapter presents transportation data for Montgomery County and Fairfax County. The table below contains selected chapter highlights.

### TRANSPORTATION DATA

Indicator	Montgomery County	Fairfax County	Difference
<b>2009 Data</b>			
Miles of Public Roadways	2,994 miles	3,120 miles	126 miles
<b>2008 Data</b>			
Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled	7.44 billion	10.46 billion	3.02 billion
Average Travel Time to Work for All Residents that Commute	32.9 minutes	30.5 minutes	2.4 minutes
Percent of Residents Traveling to Work on Public Transportation	15%	9%	6%
Rate of Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Population	5.4 fatalities	2.9 fatalities	2.5 fatalities

**Data Sources.** This chapter uses data from the Maryland State Highway Administration, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS).

The ACS is a nationwide survey that produces annual estimates for various demographic, social, housing, and economic data. This chapter uses the ACS "1-Year Estimates" for 2008, 2007, and 2006. All data in this chapter are provided up through the most recent full calendar year available from the data source.

## 1. Transportation Infrastructure

**Sources of Data:** Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration; Montgomery County Department of Transportation; State of Virginia Department of Transportation; Fairfax County Department of Transportation.

**Note on Infrastructure:** In Virginia, the state has primary responsibility for public roadways and Fairfax County maintains less than ten miles of public roadways.<sup>1</sup> In Maryland, counties have primary responsibility for public roadways. In Montgomery County, approximately 76% of public roadways are maintained by the County, 12% by the State of Maryland, and 12% by municipalities.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 6-1. Transportation Infrastructure, 2009**

Transportation Information	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Miles of Public Roadways	2,994 miles	3,120 miles <sup>3</sup>
Public Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Metrorail stations</li> <li>• 11 MARC rail stops</li> <li>• 375 Ride-On buses</li> <li>• 80 Ride-On bus routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 Metrorail stations<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• 5 VRE rail stops</li> <li>• 220 Fairfax Connector buses</li> <li>• 65 Fairfax Connector bus routes</li> </ul>

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Montgomery County and Fairfax County each have around 3,000 miles of public roadways.
- The public transportation infrastructure in both counties includes metrorail and metrobus service operated by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, commuter rail service (VRE in Fairfax and MARC in Montgomery), and county-run bus service (Fairfax Connector in Fairfax and Ride-On in Montgomery).

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/roads.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Maryland State Highway Administration, *Annual Highway Mileage Report*.

<sup>3</sup> Distance measured along north and east bound direction of separated inventoried highways. Virginia Department of Transportation Report VMT1206, July 13, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, which began in March 2009, will add 8 metro stations in Fairfax County.

## 2. Vehicle Miles Traveled

**Sources of Data:** Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration and Virginia Department of Transportation. "Annual vehicle miles traveled" measures the use of the roads located in each county by residents and non-residents.

**Table 6-2. Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled, 2006-2008**

Vehicle Miles Traveled	Montgomery County			Fairfax County		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled (in billions of miles)	7.52	7.47	7.44	9.59	10.12	10.46
Rate of Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled (in miles per resident)	8,028	7,937	7,829	9,604	10,081	10,298
<b>2006 to 2008 Change in Rate of Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>			<b>7.2%</b>		

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2008, approximately 3 billion more vehicle miles traveled occurred on Fairfax County roads than on Montgomery County roads. Adjusting for population, this equates to 10,298 vehicle miles traveled per resident in Fairfax County and 7,829 vehicle miles traveled per resident in Montgomery County.
- Between 2006 and 2008, the rate of annual vehicle miles traveled **increased** by 7.2% in Fairfax County and **decreased** by 2.5% in Montgomery County.



### 3. Average Travel Time To Work and Work Location

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey

**Table 6-3. Average Travel Time to Work, 2006-2008**

Commuting Time	Montgomery County			Fairfax County		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
All residents who commute to work*	459,789	464,973	484,860	513,643	518,548	526,583
<b>Average travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>31.2</b>	<b>30.8</b>	<b>30.5</b>

\*Excludes those who work at home.

**Table 6-4. Average Travel Time by Work Location, 2008**

Work Location	Montgomery County		Fairfax County	
	% of commuters	Avg. travel time (min)	% of commuters	Avg. travel time (min)
Commute <u>in</u> county of residence	58%	24.8	51%	23.3
Commute <u>outside</u> county of residence	42%	44.0	49%	38.1

#### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Montgomery County residents spent slightly more time traveling to work on average than residents in Fairfax County over the past three years. In 2008, Fairfax County residents spent 2.4 minutes fewer on average (30.5 minutes) per trip commuting to work than Montgomery County residents (32.9 minutes).
- In 2008, Montgomery County had a greater proportion (by 7%) of residents who commuted to work within the county.
- In 2008, Montgomery residents who worked outside Montgomery County spent, on average, about six minutes more traveling to work than Fairfax residents who worked outside of Fairfax County.

#### 4. Average Travel Time to Work and Type of Transportation

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey

**Table 6-5. Forms of Transportation Used by Residents to Travel to Work and Average Travel Time, 2008**

Form of Transportation	Montgomery County		Fairfax County	
	% of workers	Minutes	% of workers	Minutes
Drove alone (car, truck or van)	66%	30.0	72%	28.1
Public Transportation (excluding taxicab)	15%	49.3	9%	49.9
Carpooled (car, truck or van)	10%	32.4	11%	32.9
Worked at home	5%	0.0	5%	0.0
Walked	2%	11.4	2%	11.2
Other (e.g., bicycle, taxicab, motorcycle)	1%	39.1	1%	42.0

#### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- A higher percentage of Montgomery County residents took public transportation (15% compared to 9% in Fairfax) in 2008, and a higher percentage of Fairfax County residents drove to work alone (72% compared to 66% in Montgomery).
- In both counties, residents who took public transportation had the longest average commute time to work of approximately 49 minutes.
- Fairfax County residents who drive alone to work spent two minutes less on average commuting than Montgomery County residents who drove alone.

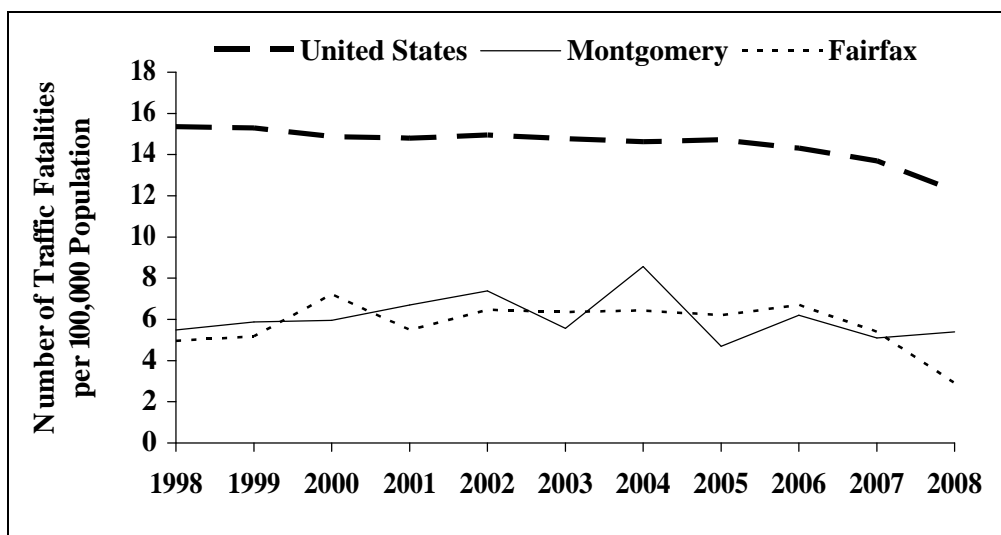
## 5. Traffic Fatalities

**Source of Data:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

**Table 6-6. Traffic Fatalities, 2006-2008**

Type of Traffic Fatality	Montgomery County			Fairfax County		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Vehicle Occupants	42	31	36	45	36	25
Pedestrians/Bicyclists/Other	16	17	15	22	18	4
<b>Total Fatalities</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>29</b>
Rate of Traffic Fatalities per 100,000 Population	6.2	5.1	5.4	6.7	5.4	2.9

**Exhibit 6-1. Traffic Fatality Rate, 1998-2008**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- The rate of traffic fatalities in both Montgomery and Fairfax County has been consistently lower over the past ten years than the national average. In 2008, the national rate of traffic fatalities per 100,000 population was 12.3.
- Montgomery County had a slightly lower rate of traffic fatalities than Fairfax County in 2006 and 2007. However, in 2008, the rate of traffic fatalities per 100,000 population decreased by nearly 50% in Fairfax County while increasing slightly in Montgomery County.

## Chapter VII. Housing

This chapter presents housing data for Montgomery County and Fairfax County. The table below contains selected chapter highlights.

### HOUSING DATA – 2008

Indicator	Montgomery County	Fairfax County	Difference
Total Housing Units	365,083 units	393,365 units	28,282 units
Homeownership Rate	73%	73%	0%
Median Housing Value	\$489,400	\$523,600	\$34,200
Median Housing Sales Price	\$395,000	\$371,000	\$24,000
Homeowners Spending 30%+ of Monthly Income on Housing Costs	38%	35%	3%
Renters Spending 30%+ of Monthly Income on Housing Costs	52%	45%	7%
Foreclosure Rate (Dec. 08-Nov. 09)	2.4%	3.3%	0.9%
Homeless Persons per 100,000 Population	121 people	181 people	60 people

**Data Sources.** This chapter uses data from three different sources. The majority of data are taken from the U.S. Census Bureau’s annual American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a nationwide survey that produces annual estimates for various population and housing information. This chapter uses the ACS “1-Year Estimates” for 2008, 2007, and 2006.

A second data source is the Metropolitan Regional Information Systems, which compiles and publishes publicly-available housing market data for jurisdictions within the Washington D.C. metropolitan region. The third data source is RealtyTrac, which compiles and publishes publicly-available data on housing foreclosures.

## 1. Housing Units and Occupancy

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS defines “Homeownership Rate” as the percent of occupied (i.e., non-vacant) housing units that are owner occupied. The ACS defines “Mobility Rate” as the percent of population ages 1 year and older living in a different residence than one year ago.

**Table 7-1. Housing Units, Homeownership, and Mobility, 2006-2008**

	Montgomery County			Fairfax County		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Total housing units	359,685	361,810	365,083	390,761	392,338	393,365
<b>Change from Previous Year</b>	--	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	--	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Homeownership Rate	71%	71%	73%	75%	75%	73%
Mobility Rate	15%	14%	13%	15%	15%	14%

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2008, the total number of housing units in Fairfax County was about 28,000 (or 8%) greater than the total number in Montgomery County. However, Montgomery County’s increase in total housing units was slightly higher in 2007 (by 0.2%) and 2008 (by 0.6%).
- Montgomery County and Fairfax County had identical homeownership rates of 73% in 2008.
- The housing mobility rate in Fairfax County was 1% higher than in Montgomery County for both 2007 and 2008.

## 2. Housing Type and Age

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

**Table 7-2. Type of Housing Units, 2008**

Housing Type	Montgomery County		Fairfax County	
	Units	% of Total	Units	% of Total
<b>Single-Unit Structures</b>				
1-unit, detached	186,758	51%	199,123	51%
1-unit, attached	63,821	18%	92,419	23%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>250,579</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>291,542</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Multi-Unit Structures</b>				
Structures with 2-9 units	23,961	7%	20,522	6%
Structures with 10-19 units	34,734	9%	39,927	10%
Structures with 20+ units	55,171	15%	39,702	10%
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>113,866</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>100,151</b>	<b>26%</b>

**Table 7-3. Age of Housing Units, 2008**

When Housing Unit Built	Montgomery County		Fairfax County	
	Units	% of Total	Units	% of Total
Pre-1970	143,249	39%	107,507	27%
1970 to 1979	65,905	18%	89,964	23%
1980 to 1989	75,951	21%	94,651	24%
1990 to 1999	43,471	12%	63,341	16%
Since 2000	36,507	10%	37,902	10%

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2008, the proportion of single-family, detached housing in each County was identical at 51% of all housing units. The proportion of single-unit, attached housing (e.g., townhouses) was 5% higher in Fairfax County (23% compared to 18%).
- The proportion of multi-unit housing structures (e.g., condominiums, apartment complexes) was 5% higher in Montgomery County in 2008 (31% compared to 26%). This difference is attributable to a greater proportion of multi-unit structures with 20+ units.
- While the proportion of housing units built since 2000 was the same (10%) in both counties as of 2008, there was a 12% difference in the proportion of housing units built before 1970: 39% in Montgomery County compared to 27% in Fairfax County.

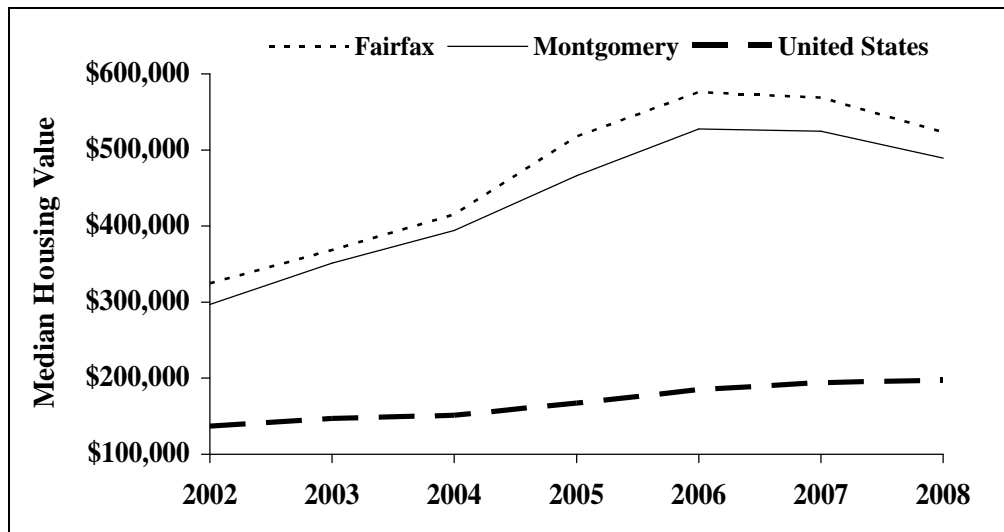
### 3. Value of Housing Units

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

**Table 7-4. Value of Owner-Occupied Homes, 2008**

Housing Values	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
<b>Median</b>	<b>\$489,400</b>	<b>\$523,600</b>
Percent valued less than \$300,000	15%	11%
Percent valued \$300,000 to \$499,999	37%	36%
Percent valued \$500,000 to \$999,999	39%	46%
Percent valued \$1,000,000 or more	9%	7%

**Exhibit 7-1. Median Value of Owner-Occupied Homes, 2002-2008**



#### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 2002, the median housing values for both Montgomery County and Fairfax County have been well above the national average for owner-occupied homes.
- In 2008, owner-occupied homes in Fairfax County had a median value (\$523K) about \$34,000 higher than homes in Montgomery County (\$489K). While Fairfax has had a consistently higher median value since 2002, the growth trends have been similar for the two counties.
- Montgomery County had a higher proportion of homes valued less than \$300K in 2008 (15% compared to 11%) and of homes valued at \$1 million or more (9% compared to 7%).

#### 4. Monthly Housing Costs for Homeowners

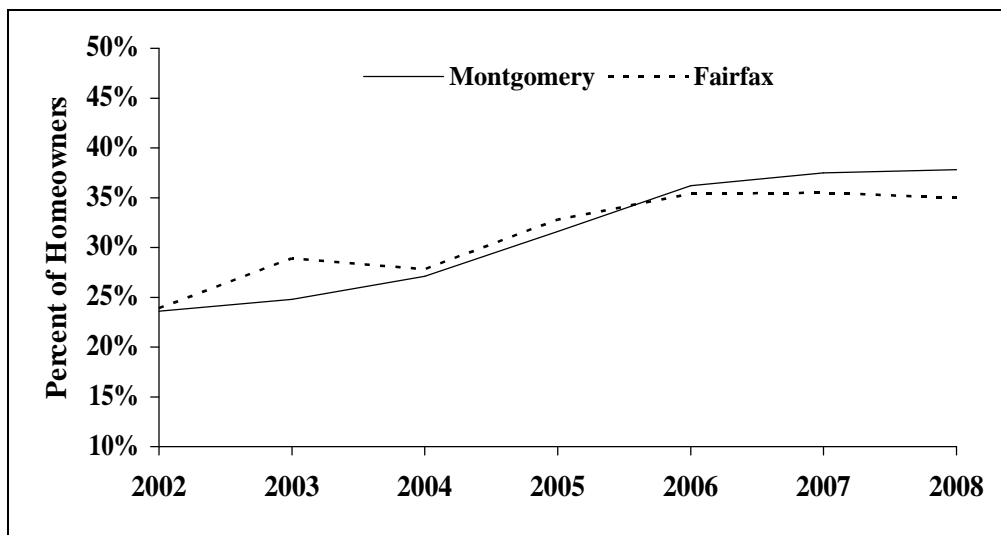
**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS). Monthly homeowner housing costs include mortgage, real estate taxes, homeowners insurance, condo fees (if applicable), and utilities. Government agencies have historically used 30% of household income as the maximum amount households should pay for monthly housing costs. The 30% value is often referred to as the housing affordability threshold.

**Table 7-5. Monthly Housing Costs for Homeowners, 2006-2008**

Homeowner Housing Costs	Montgomery County			Fairfax County		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Median Monthly Costs*	\$2,285	\$2,429	\$2,454	\$2,354	\$2,495	\$2,543
Change from Previous Year	--	6.3%	1.0%	--	6.0%	1.9%
Homeowners Exceeding 30% of Monthly Income on Housing Costs	36%	38%	38%	36%	35%	35%

\*Only includes housing units with a mortgage.

**Exhibit 7-2. Percent of Homeowners Spending 30% or More of Household Income on Monthly Housing Costs, 2002-2008**



#### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- The median monthly housing costs for homeowners increased each year from 2006 to 2008 in Fairfax County and Montgomery County, with similar annual increases.
- In 2008, 38% of homeowners in Montgomery County and 35% of homeowners in Fairfax County spent 30% or more of their monthly income on housing costs.
- Since 2002, the percent of homeowners exceeding the “housing affordability threshold” for monthly housing costs increased 13% in Montgomery County and 10% in Fairfax County.



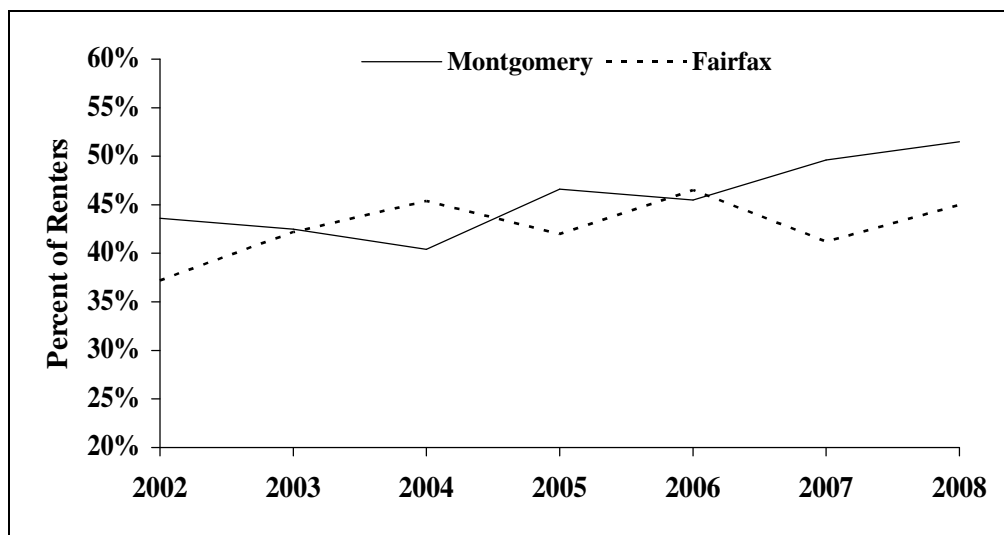
## 5. Monthly Housing Costs for Renters

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS). Monthly renter housing costs include contracted rent amount and utilities. Government agencies have historically used 30% of household income as the maximum amount households should pay for monthly housing costs. The 30% value is often referred to as the housing affordability threshold.

**Table 7-6. Monthly Housing Costs for Renters, 2006-2008**

Rental Costs	Montgomery County			Fairfax County		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Median Monthly Costs	\$1,262	\$1,349	\$1,386	\$1,355	\$1,430	\$1,529
Change from Previous Year	--	6.9%	2.7%	--	5.5%	6.9%
Renters Exceeding 30% of Monthly Income on Housing Costs	46%	50%	52%	47%	41%	45%

**Exhibit 7-3. Percent of Renters Spending 30% or More of Household Income on Monthly Housing Costs, 2002-2008**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- From 2006 to 2008, median monthly rental costs increased in both counties with a consistently higher median cost in Fairfax County.
- In 2008, 52% of renters in Montgomery County and 45% of renters in Fairfax County spent 30% or more of their monthly housing income on housing costs.
- Since 2002, the percent of renters exceeding the “housing affordability threshold” for monthly housing costs increased about 8% in Montgomery County and 7% in Fairfax County, although the year to year data show a fair amount of variability.

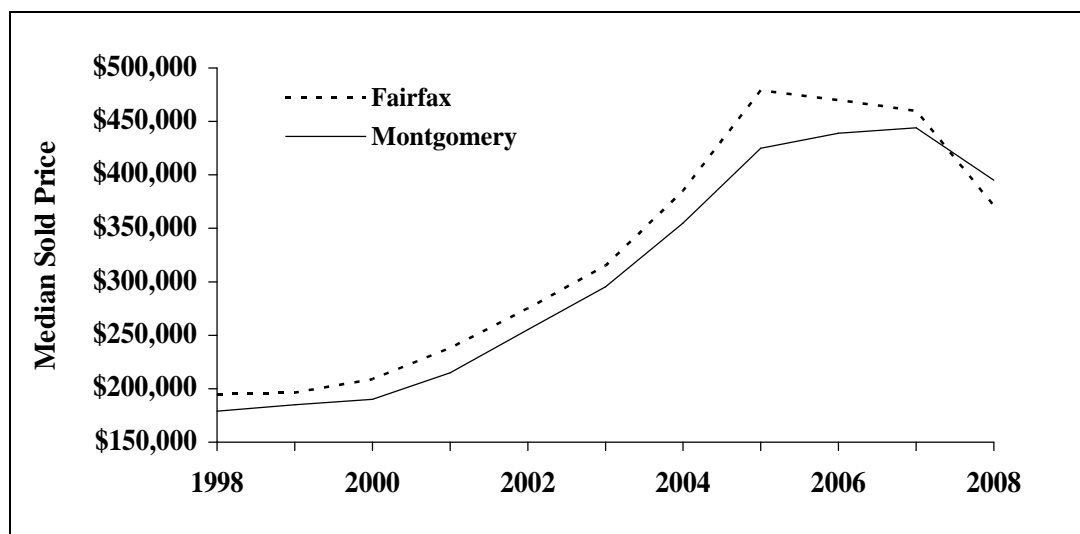
## 6. Median Home Sales Price

**Source of Data:** Metropolitan Regional Information Systems, Inc. – MLS Resale Data

**Table 7-7. Median Price of Homes Sold, 2006-2008**

	Montgomery County			Fairfax County		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Median Sold Price	\$439,000	\$444,000	\$395,000	\$470,000	\$459,990	\$371,000
Change from Previous Year	--	1.1%	-11.0%	--	-2.1%	-19.4%

**Exhibit 7-4. Median Price of Homes Sold, 1998-2008**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2008, the median sales price for homes sold in Montgomery County (\$395K) was \$24,000 higher than in Fairfax County (\$371K).
- Since 1998, the growth trends for the median price of homes sold were similar in Montgomery County and Fairfax County; however, 2008 was the first year during this time period that the median sales price was higher in Montgomery County.
- The median sales price of homes in both counties decreased sharply from 2007 to 2008, with an 11% decrease in Montgomery County and a 19% decrease in Fairfax County.

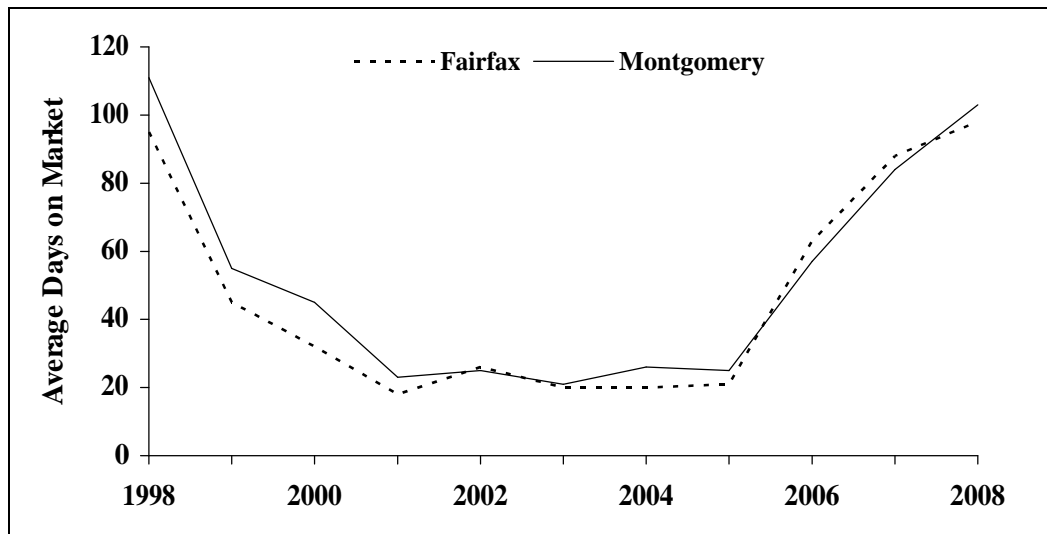
## 7. Housing Units Sold and Average Days on Market

**Source of Data:** Metropolitan Regional Information Systems, Inc. – MLS Resale Data

**Table 7-8. Homes for Sale – Average Days on Market, 2006-2008**

Homes for Sale	Montgomery County			Fairfax County		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Total Units Sold	13,523	10,360	8,516	16,314	13,557	13,979
Average Days on Market	57	84	103	63	88	98

**Exhibit 7-5. Homes for Sale – Average Days on Market, 1998-2008**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- From 2006 to 2008, the total number of housing units sold decreased in both Montgomery County and Fairfax County and the length of time homes stayed on the market before selling increased in both counties.
- Since 1998, the trend for average days homes are on the market before selling has been nearly identical in Montgomery County and Fairfax County. In fact, for both counties the average days on the market data for 2008 showed an approximate return to 1998 levels.

## 8. Foreclosures

**Source of Data:** RealtyTrac. Available data on foreclosures counts the total number of properties that received a foreclosure filing via a Default Notice, a Foreclosure Auction Notice, or a Bank Repossession. Each of these is referred to as a separate “foreclosure event”.

**Table 7-9. Housing Foreclosures, December 2008-November 2009**

<b>Foreclosures (December 2008-November 2009)</b>	<b>Montgomery County</b>	<b>Fairfax County</b>
Total Foreclosure Events	8,711	12,920
Total Housing Units	365,083	393,365
<b>12-Month Foreclosure Rate*</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>3.3%</b>

\*Calculated by dividing total number of foreclosure events by the total housing units in the County as determined by 2008 American Community Survey.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Between December 2008 and November 2009, there were over 4,000 more housing foreclosure events in Fairfax County than in Montgomery County.
- Accounting for the total number of housing units, the overall foreclosure rate for the December 2008 through November 2009 time period was about 1% higher in Fairfax County than in Montgomery County.

## 9. Homeless Population

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development. Homeless population data are based on annual point-in-time homeless counts published in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's *Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*.

**Table 7-10. Homeless Population, 2006-2008**

Homeless Population	Montgomery			Fairfax		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Total Number of Homeless Persons	1,164	1,139	1,150	1,565	1,593	1,835
Homeless Persons per 100,000 Population	124	121	121	157	159	181

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2008, Fairfax County had approximately 700 more homeless persons than Montgomery County, or an additional 60 homeless persons for every 100,000 residents.
- Adjusting for total population, the rate of homeless persons in Montgomery County stayed relatively constant from 2006 through 2008 while the rate in Fairfax County showed a notable jump from 159 in 2007 to 181 in 2008.

## Chapter VIII. Education

This chapter presents education data for Montgomery County and Fairfax County. The table below contains selected chapter highlights.

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS DATA

Indicator	Montgomery County Public Schools	Fairfax County Public Schools	Difference
<b>FY10 Data (2009-2010 School Year)</b>			
Total Public School Enrollment	141,777 students	171,790 students	30,013 students
Cost per Pupil	\$14,294	\$12,898	\$1,396
Average Teacher Salary	\$73,840	\$64,653	\$9,187
Race/Ethnicity of Students			
% White	38%	45%	7%
% African American	23%	10%	13%
% Hispanic	23%	19%	4%
% Asian American	16%	19%	3%
% Multiracial	not used	6%	6%
<b>FY09 Data (2008-2009 School Year)</b>			
% of Students Receiving Special Education Services	12%	14%	2%
% of Students in ESOL programs	12%	12%	None
% of Students Eligible for FARMS	27%	22%	5%

**Data Sources.** The majority of the data in this chapter come from the annual guides published by the Washington Areas Boards of Education (WABE). WABE describes the annual guide as enabling “local school systems to learn about each other by reporting comparable information in a standardized format” and as “meant to be used by citizens as a source for consistent, reliable educational data.”<sup>1</sup>

Data on total public school enrollment, race/ethnicity of student enrollment, student mobility rates, and cost per pupil come from documents published directly by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). Additionally, all data for Fairfax County Public Schools include students who reside in Fairfax City. The City of Fairfax School Board contracts with Fairfax County Public Schools for the delivery of educational services.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/wabe/>

## 1. Total Public School Enrollment

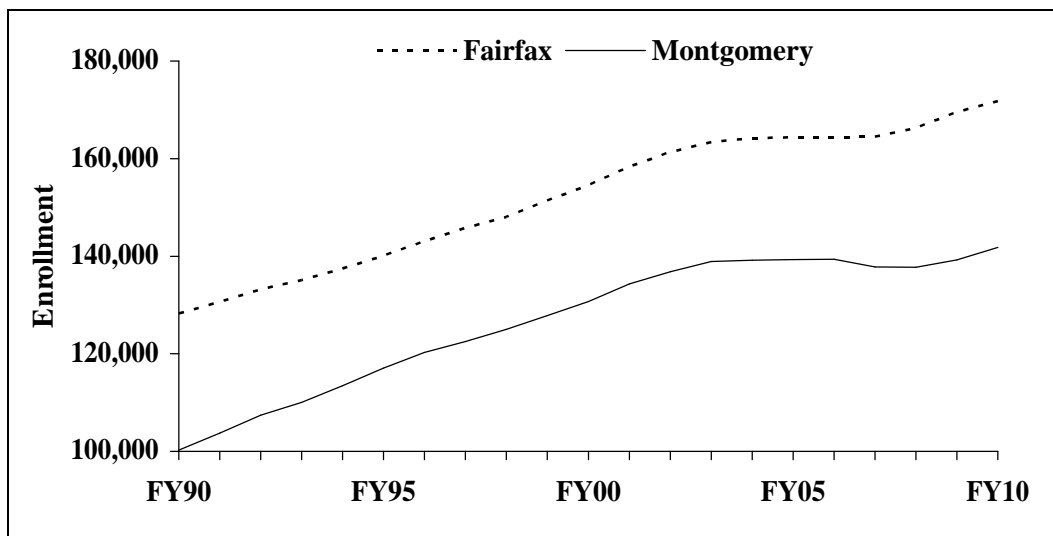
**Sources of Data:** Montgomery County Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools

**Table 8-1. Total Public School Enrollment, FY08-FY10**

	MCPS			FCPS		
	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY08	FY09	FY10*
Total Enrollment	137,745	139,276	141,777	166,307	169,538	171,790
% Change from Prior Year	--	1.1%	1.8%	--	1.9%	1.4%

\*FCPS FY10 enrollment as of September 30, 2009.

**Exhibit 8-1. Total Public School Enrollment, FY90-FY10**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- The FY10 enrollment in Fairfax County Public Schools (171,790 students) is about 30,000 students greater than the enrollment in Montgomery County Public Schools (141,777 students). FCPS ranks as the 12<sup>th</sup> largest school system by enrollment in the United States and MCPS ranks as the 16<sup>th</sup> largest.
- Over the past 20 years, FY90 to FY10, the total enrollment has been consistently higher for Fairfax County Public Schools but the school systems have followed similar growth patterns.

## 2. Special Education, ESOL, and FARMS

**Sources of Data:** Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE), Fairfax County Public Schools, Maryland State Department of Education

**Table 8-2. Special Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and Free or Reduced Price Meals (FARMS) Eligible Students – FY07-FY09**

	MCPS			FCPS		
	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY07	FY08	FY09
Total Special Education Services Provided*	24,044	25,845	23,421	43,115	43,294	43,680
Students Receiving Special Education Services**	17,198	16,731	16,485	23,847	23,815	24,017
<b>% of Total Enrollment</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>
ESOL Students	14,785	15,931	16,250	21,267	21,751	20,689
<b>% of Total Enrollment</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>
FARMS Eligible Students	33,997	35,580	37,692	32,299	34,048	37,161
<b>% of Total Enrollment</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>22%</b>

\*This represents the number of services delivered; a student can receive more than one special education service.

\*\*Number of students receiving special education services is an unduplicated count.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- Each year from FY07-FY09, approximately 14% of students in Fairfax County Public Schools received special education services compared to about 12% of students in Montgomery County Public Schools.
- ESOL students represented 12% of total enrollment for both MCPS and FCPS in FY09, with a slight decreasing trend in FCPS and a slight increasing trend in MCPS since FY07.
- Each year from FY07 to FY09, the rate of FARMS eligibility for MCPS students was 5% higher than for FCPS students.



### 3. Student Characteristics

**Sources of Data:** Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE), Montgomery County Public Schools, Fairfax County Public Schools

**Table 8-3. Race/Ethnicity Breakdown of Public School Enrollment, FY10\***

Race/Ethnicity	MCPS	FCPS
% White	38%	45%
% African American	23%	10%
% Hispanic	23%	19%
% Asian American	16%	19%
% Multiracial	not used	6%
% American Indian	<1%	<1%
% Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	not used	<1%
% Undesignated	not used	<1%

\*FCPS FY10 data as of September 30, 2009.

**Table 8-4. Mobility Rate, Dropout Rate, and SAT Scores, FY07-FY08**

	MCPS		FCPS	
	FY07	FY08	FY07	FY08
Student Mobility Rate	15.7%	13.9%	15.2%	14.8%
Dropout Rate	2.7%	2.9%	1.7%	1.5%
Average SAT Score	1,624	1,616	1,639	1,654

#### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In FY10, MCPS has a higher proportion of African American and Hispanic students while Fairfax County Public Schools has a higher proportion of White and Asian students. However, FCPS includes a “Multiracial” race/ethnicity category that is not used by MCPS and could affect the actual differences.
- In FY08, FCPS had a higher average SAT score (by 38 points) and a lower dropout rate (by 1.4%), while MCPS had a lower student mobility rate (by 0.9%).

## 4. Public Schools Expenditures

**Sources of Data:** Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE); Fairfax County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools. Cost per pupil data are the values reported by each school system in their respective FY10 Approved Budget documents.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 8-5. Source of Revenue Breakdown for Public Schools, FY10\***

Sources of Revenue	MCPS	FCPS
Local	71%	74%
State	21%	19%
Federal/Other*	8%	7%

\*Revenue sources are for MCPS' Current Operating Fund and FCPS' School Operating Fund only. These totals exclude enterprise and special revenue funds and include budgeted or formula grants.

**Table 8-6. Cost Per Pupil Expenditures, FY08-FY10**

Expenditures	MCPS*			FCPS**		
	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY08	FY09	FY10
Cost Per Pupil	\$13,704	\$14,121	\$14,294	\$13,407	\$13,340	\$12,898
% Change from Prior Year	--	3.1%	1.2%	--	-0.5%	-3.3%

\*MCPS cost per pupil data excludes expenditures for summer school, community services, tuition for students with disabilities in private placement, and enterprise fund accounts.

\*\*FCPS cost per pupil data includes all school operating fund costs associated with an instructional program; it excludes adult and community education.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In FY10, MCPS and FCPS have a similar breakdown of operating fund revenue sources; both are funded predominantly through local government.
- Montgomery County Public Schools spends about \$1,400 more per pupil in FY10 than Fairfax County Public Schools, and spent more per pupil in FY08 and FY09 as well.
- The MCPS cost per pupil increased each year from FY08 to FY10, while the FCPS cost per pupil decreased each year.

<sup>2</sup> MCPS *Approved FY 2010 Operating Budget Summary and Personnel Complement*, pg. v-1. FCPS *FY 2010 Approved Budget*, pg. 219.

## 5. Public Schools Staffing Data

**Sources of Data:** Washington Area Board of Education (WABE); Montgomery County Public Schools Department of Management, Budget and Planning

**Table 8-7. Teacher Salaries and Compensation, FY10**

	MCPS	FCPS
Minimum Teacher Salary	\$46,410	\$44,389
Average Teacher Salary*	\$73,840	\$64,653

\*Average teacher salary data is based on a point-in-time extract of the average actual salary of 10-month filled teacher positions. MCPS' average takes into account 10-month teachers working less than full-time.

**Table 8-8. Total School System Positions and Students per Teacher Data, FY10**

	MCPS	FCPS
Number of Authorized Positions*	18,551	22,386
% School-Based Positions	93%	92%
Students per Teacher-Scale Position**		
Elementary School	12.1	13.3
Middle School	19.7	18.6
High School	21.3	19.0

\*WABE data includes positions funded by school operating fund, and excludes bus drivers, bus aides, and security.

\*\*Teacher-scale positions include classroom teachers as well as other teachers such as ESOL, librarians, reading, coaches, mentors, music, art, PE, etc.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In FY10, the average teacher salary in MCPS (\$73,840) is about \$9,000 higher than the average teacher salary in FCPS (\$64,653).
- In FY10, MCPS has fewer students per teacher-scale position for the elementary school levels, while FCPS has fewer for the middle school and high school levels.

## Chapter IX. Public Safety

This chapter presents public safety data for Montgomery County and Fairfax County. The table below contains selected chapter highlights.

### PUBLIC SAFETY DATA – 2008

Indicator	Montgomery County	Fairfax County	Difference
Total Part I Crimes	28,311	21,319	6,992
Total Part I Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)	2,978	2,051	927
Part I Violent Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)	235	78	157
Part I Property Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)	2,743	1,973	770

**Data Sources.** This chapter presents crime data reported via the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system, a standardized crime reporting system for law enforcement agencies nationwide. The UCR system sorts crimes into two primary categories, Part I and Part II crimes. Part I crimes (sometimes referred to as index crimes) are considered the “more serious” crimes, while Part II crimes are considered the “less serious” crimes. This chapter includes only Part I crime data because it is published annually across law enforcement agencies, while Part II crime data is not.

Part I crimes include four offenses classified as violent crimes (murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) and four offenses classified as property crimes (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson).

For both Montgomery County and Fairfax County, the data reported in this chapter include Part I crime data from multiple law enforcement agencies. All **Montgomery County** totals include crime data from: Montgomery County Police Department (which also captures all data from the Rockville City and Gaithersburg City Police Departments), Montgomery County Park Police, Takoma Park Police Department, Chevy Chase Village Police Department,<sup>1</sup> and the Maryland State Police.

All **Fairfax County** totals include crime data from: Fairfax County Police Department, City of Fairfax Police Department, Town of Herndon Police Department, Town of Vienna Police Department, George Mason University Police Department, Northern Virginia Community College Police Department, and the Virginia State Police.

<sup>1</sup> 2006 UCR data for the Chevy Chase Village Police Department was not available.

## 1. Part I Crimes – Total and Crime Rate

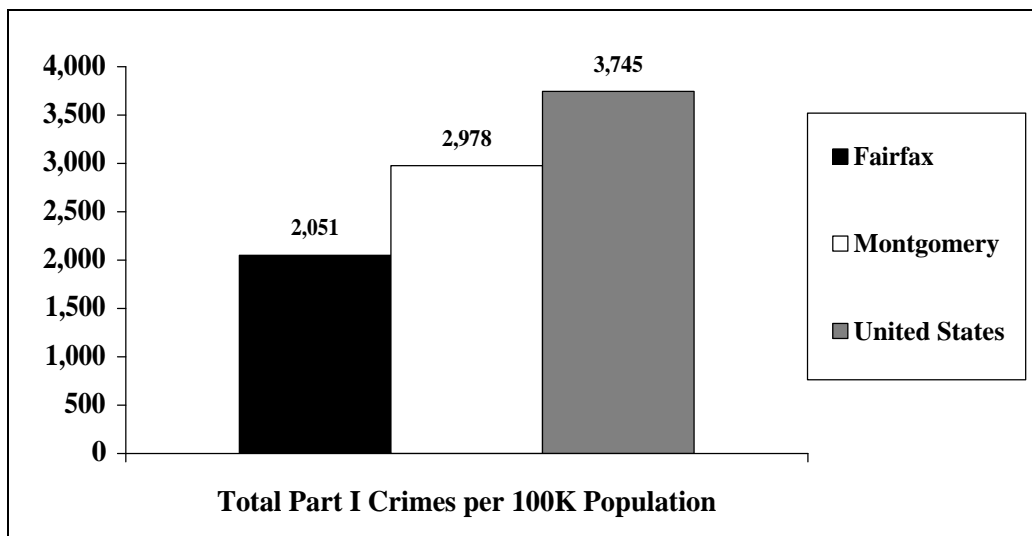
**Sources of Data:** FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Database; Virginia Department of State Police; Maryland Department of State Police; Town of Vienna, VA

**Table 9-1. Total Part I Crimes and Crime Rate, 2006-2008**

	Montgomery County			Fairfax County*		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Violent Crimes	2,304	2,207	2,231	907	990	810
Property Crimes	24,392	24,806	26,080	17,291	18,891	20,509
<b>Total Part I Crimes</b>	<b>26,696</b>	<b>27,013</b>	<b>28,311</b>	<b>18,198</b>	<b>19,881</b>	<b>21,319</b>
Part I Crime Rate (per 100,000 population)	2,852	2,869	2,978	1,782	1,935	2,051
% Change in Crime Rate, 2006-2008	4%			15%		

\*Includes data (crimes and population) from Fairfax City.

**Exhibit 9-1. Comparison of Part I Crime Rates, 2008**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- The rate of Part I crimes in Montgomery County and Fairfax County were both lower than the national rate in 2008, while the rate in Montgomery County (2,978) was higher than the rate in Fairfax County (2,051) by about 900 crimes per 100,000 population.
- The rate of Part I crimes increased in both counties from 2006 to 2008, with a 15% increase in Fairfax County (from 1,782 to 2,051) and a 4% increase in Montgomery County (from 2,852 to 2,978).

## 2. Rate of Part I Violent Crimes

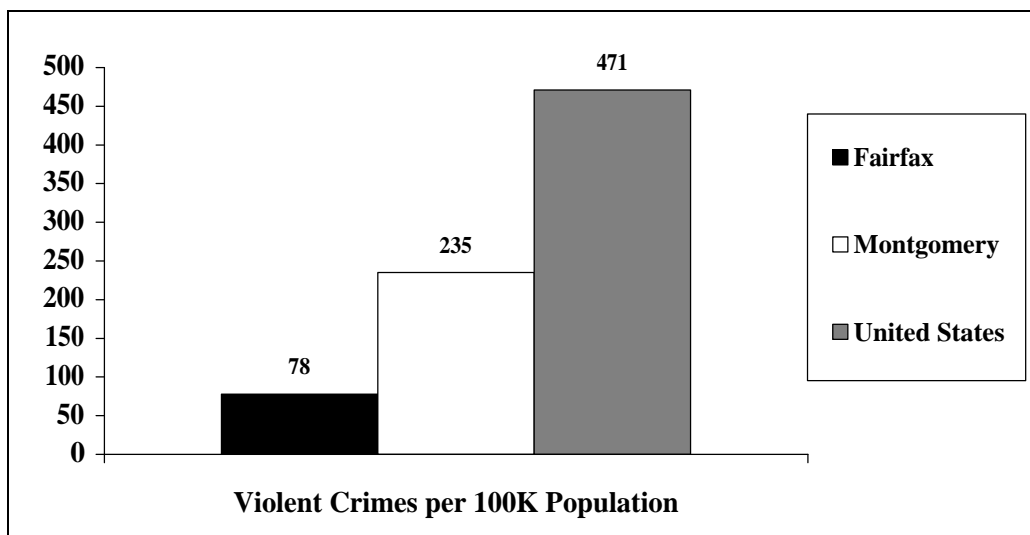
**Sources of Data:** FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Database; Virginia Department of State Police; Maryland Department of State Police; Town of Vienna, VA

**Table 9-2. Part I Violent Crime Rate  
(Number of Crimes Reported per 100,000 Population), 2006-2008**

Part I Crime Type	Montgomery County			Fairfax County*		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Robbery	134.7	126.3	125.4	45.1	50.3	35.1
Aggravated Assault	93.9	91.9	92.8	36.0	36.0	34.1
Forcible Rape	15.5	14.1	14.3	6.5	8.4	6.8
Murder	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.2	1.7	1.9
<b>Total Crime Rate</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>% Change from 2006-2008</b>	<b>-5%</b>			<b>-12%</b>		

\*Includes data from Fairfax City.

**Exhibit 9-2. Comparison of Violent Crime Rates, 2008**



### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2008 violent crime rates for Montgomery County and Fairfax County were both well below the national rate. For each year from 2006 to 2008, the rate of Part I violent crime was between two and three times higher in Montgomery County than in Fairfax County.
- In both counties, robberies account for around 50% of the violent crime rate in 2008.
- From 2006 to 2008, Montgomery County's Part I violent crime rate decreased by 5% while Fairfax County's rate decreased by 12%.

### 3. Rate of Part I Property Crime

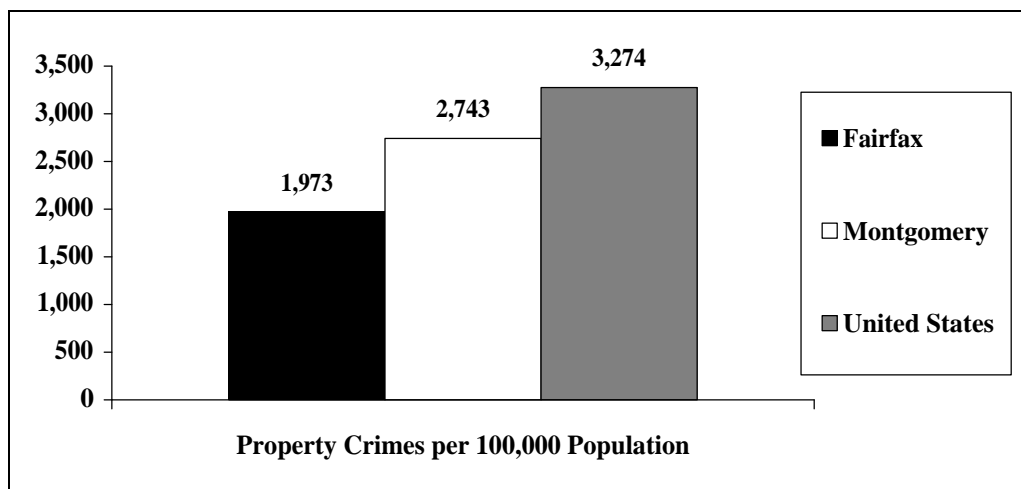
**Sources of Data:** FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Database; Virginia Department of State Police; Maryland Department of State Police; Town of Vienna, VA

**Table 9-3. Part I Property Crime Rate**  
(Number of Crimes Reported per 100,000 Population), 2006-2008

Part I Crime Type	Montgomery County			Fairfax County*		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
Larceny	1,865.9	1,931.1	2,069.9	1,377.7	1,548.5	1,704.5
Burglary	420.1	393.8	395.5	153.3	146.0	145.1
Motor Vehicle Theft	282.0	279.8	250.8	149.4	129.7	112.5
Arson	37.8	30.1	27.1	12.6	14.5	11.3
<b>Total Crime Rate</b>	<b>2,606</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>2,743</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>1,839</b>	<b>1,973</b>
<b>% Change from 2006-2008</b>	<b>5%</b>			<b>17%</b>		

\*Includes data from Fairfax City.

**Exhibit 9-3. Comparison of Property Crime Rates, 2008**



#### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2008 property crime rates for Montgomery County and Fairfax County were below the national rate. For each year from 2006 to 2008, the rate of Part I property crimes was higher in Montgomery County than in Fairfax County.
- In both counties, larceny accounts for a substantial majority of Part I property crimes.
- From 2006 to 2008, Fairfax County's Part I property crime rate increased by 17% (from 1,693 to 1,973) and Montgomery County's rate increased by 5% (from 2,606 to 2,743).

## Chapter X. Public Health and Vital Statistics

This chapter presents public health and vital statistics data for Montgomery County and Fairfax County. The table below contains selected chapter highlights.

### Public Health and Vital Statistics Data

Indicator	Montgomery County	Fairfax County	Difference
<b>2008 Data</b>			
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	14.4 births	15.1 births	0.7 births
Birth Rate to Teen Mothers (per 1,000 females age 15-19)	20.9 births	17.0 births	3.9 births
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	5.6 deaths	3.7 deaths	1.9 deaths
Deaths per 1,000 population	5.8 deaths	4.4 deaths	1.4 deaths
<b>2006 Data</b>			
HIV Rate (new infections per 100,000 population)	24.3	8.9	15.4
Chlamydia Rate (new infections per 100,000 population)	136.1	119.6	16.5

**Data sources.** This chapter contains data from a variety of sources. Data on births and deaths by county of residence are collected and reported at the State level by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Virginia Department of Health. These data are presented on a county of residence basis, regardless of where the birth or death event occurred. Data on sexually transmitted diseases come from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health.

An additional data source for this chapter is the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a yearly survey on health conditions and risk behavior collected by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). All data in this chapter from the BFRSS include the confidence interval for the result (shown as  $\pm x\%$ ). The confidence interval provides the "range of values around the statistic where the true value can be expected with a given level of certainty."<sup>1</sup> If the confidence intervals for any particular result overlap when comparing data between Montgomery County and Fairfax County, then any difference in the data is not statistically significant.

<sup>1</sup> BRFSS Operational and User's Guide, Version 3.0. December 12, 2006.



## 1. Births

**Sources of Data:** Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Virginia Department of Health; U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program. Low birth weight is defined as babies who are born weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces.

**Table 10-1. Total Births, Birth Weight, and Prenatal Care, 2008**

<b>Birth Data</b>	<b>Montgomery County</b>	<b>Fairfax County</b>
Total Live Births	13,681	15,334
Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population	14.4	15.1
Birth Rate per 1,000 Females Age 15-49	59.8	63.4
Low Birth Weight Infants	1,086	1,061
% of Total Live Births	8%	7%
Prenatal Care Began in First Trimester*	11,490	12,863
% of Total Live Births	84%	84%

\*Excludes births for which timing of prenatal care was unknown.

**Table 10-2. Births to Teen Mothers (Age 15-19), 2008**

<b>Teen Birth Data</b>	<b>Montgomery County</b>	<b>Fairfax County</b>
Live Births to Teen Mothers (age 15-19)	619	562
Birth Rate per 1,000 Females Age 15-19	20.9	17.0

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2008, the birth rate in Fairfax County was 15.1 per 1,000 population, slightly higher than the birth rate in Montgomery County of 14.4 per 1,000 population.
- A similar proportion of low birth weight babies were born in each county in 2008, 8% of total live births in Montgomery and 7% in Fairfax, and 84% of pregnant women in both counties began prenatal care in the first trimester.
- 619 births to teen mothers (ages 15-19) occurred in Montgomery County in 2008, corresponding to a teen birth rate of 20.9 per thousand females in that age range. In Fairfax County, 562 births occurred to teen mothers for a teen birth rate of 17 per thousand females ages 15-19.

## 2. Deaths

**Sources of Data:** Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Virginia Department of Health

**Table 10-3. Total Deaths and Rate per 1,000 Population, 2008**

	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Total Deaths (all ages)	5,560	4,475
<b>Rate per 1,000 population<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>

**Table 10-4. Deaths by Selected Cause, 2008**

Causes of Death	Montgomery County		Fairfax County	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Cancer	1,352	24%	1,234	28%
Heart Disease	1,346	24%	946	21%
All Other Causes	2,862	52%	2,295	51%

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- 1,085 more deaths occurred in Montgomery County than in Fairfax County in 2008. Adjusting for population, the rate of deaths per thousand population was 5.8 in Montgomery County compared to 4.4 in Fairfax County.
- Heart disease and cancer were the leading causes of death in both counties in 2008, accounting for nearly one-half of all deaths in each county.

<sup>2</sup> This is the unadjusted or crude death rate, which means that the data has not been altered to take into account the age distribution of each population.

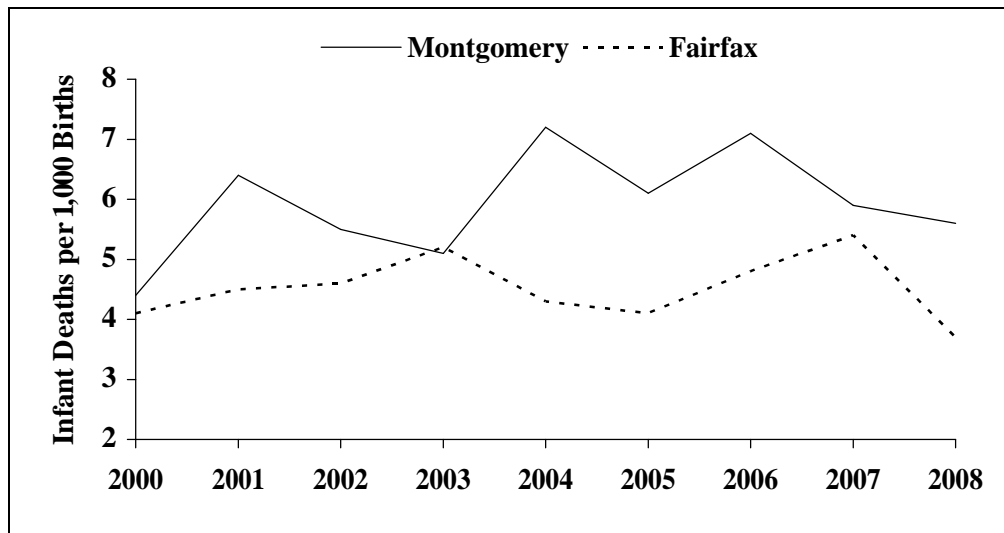
### 3. Infant Mortality

**Sources of Data:** Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Virginia Department of Health. Infant mortality is defined as deaths of infants under one year of age.

**Table 10-5. Infant Mortality, 2008**

	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Total Infant Mortality	76	57
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	5.6	3.7

**Exhibit 10-1. Infant Mortality Rate, 2000-2008**



#### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2008, 19 more infant deaths occurred in Montgomery County (76) than in Fairfax County (57).
- Adjusting for differences in the total number of live births, the infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births in Montgomery County was 5.6 compared to 3.7 in Fairfax County in 2008.

## 4. Sexually Transmitted Diseases

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health. The incidence of HIV and Chlamydia refers to the number of newly diagnosed infections during that year. The rate is calculated as the new infections per 100,000 population.

**Table 10-6. Incidence and Rate of HIV and Chlamydia, 2006**

	Montgomery County	Fairfax County
Incidence of HIV (Age 13+)	227	89
<b>HIV Rate per 100,000 Population</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>8.9</b>
Incidence of Chlamydia	1,274	1,194
<b>Chlamydia Rate per 100,000 Population</b>	<b>136.1</b>	<b>119.6</b>

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2006, there were 138 more incidences of newly diagnosed HIV infections in Montgomery County than in Fairfax County. Adjusting for population, the rate of new infections per 100,000 population was almost three times higher in Montgomery County (24.3 compared to 8.9).
- Montgomery County and Fairfax County had similar totals for newly diagnosed Chlamydia infections in 2006, although the rate of new infection per 100,000 population was higher in Montgomery County (136.1 compared to 119.6).

## 5. Health Risk Data

**Source of Data:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Within each category, the BRFSS information for each county includes the survey data result and the confidence interval (shown as  $\pm x\%$ ). Smaller confidence intervals indicate more precise estimates. If the confidence intervals for any particular result overlap when comparing data between Montgomery County and Fairfax County, then any difference in the data is not statistically significant.

**Table 10-7. Health Risk Data (Percent of County Adults), 2007**

Category	Adults who...	Montgomery County	Fairfax County	Statistically Significant Difference
<b>Health Insurance</b>	Have health care coverage of any kind	86.4% ( $\pm 3.4\%$ )	93.8% ( $\pm 4.4\%$ )	No
<b>Alcohol Use</b>	Are heavy drinkers*	3.7% ( $\pm 1.4\%$ )	10.6% ( $\pm 6.3\%$ )	No
<b>Tobacco Use</b>	Are current smokers	8.8% ( $\pm 2.2\%$ )	9.2% ( $\pm 5.9\%$ )	No
<b>Asthma</b>	Have been diagnosed with asthma	7.2% ( $\pm 2.0\%$ )	8.4% ( $\pm 4.4\%$ )	No
<b>Hypertension</b>	Have been diagnosed with high blood pressure	25.3% ( $\pm 3.2\%$ )	22.4% ( $\pm 7.1\%$ )	No
<b>Cardiovascular Disease</b>	Have had a heart attack	2.6% ( $\pm 1.2\%$ )	1.0% ( $\pm 1.0\%$ )	No
<b>Overweight</b>	Have a Body Mass Index between 25 and 29.9	33.8% ( $\pm 4.0\%$ )	41.3% ( $\pm 10\%$ )	No
<b>Obese</b>	Have a Body Mass Index of 30+	16.8% ( $\pm 2.8\%$ )	14.6% ( $\pm 7.7\%$ )	No
<b>Physical Activity</b>	Did not participate in physical activity in the last month	19.6% ( $\pm 3.2\%$ )	11.0% ( $\pm 4.5\%$ )	Yes

\* Defined as adult men having more than 2 drinks per day or adult women having more than 1 drink per day.

### DATA HIGHLIGHTS

- While the raw data results show some variation in health risk factors between adult residents of Montgomery County and Fairfax County, only one of the nine risk factors (physical activity) has a difference that is statistically significant.
- In Montgomery County, 19.6% of survey participants reported that they did not participate in physical activity in the last month compared to 11% in Fairfax County.

## **Chapter XI.        Next Steps**

The County Council fully anticipated that compiling data on similarities and differences between Montgomery County and Fairfax County would raise as many questions as it answered. As a result, the project design called for a Part II follow-up report to further explore a subset of issues in greater detail.

This chapter provides a list of potential items for further comparative research and analysis, as recommended by Councilmember Leventhal (the project sponsor). For the issues selected, OLO will pursue greater detail for the documented differences between the two counties.

In particular, OLO will seek to identify explanatory factors that are within the direct purview of the respective County Government (e.g., local laws, local funding decisions, tax rates established at the county level), as well as differences that are external or outside immediate County Government control (e.g., State laws, state tax rates, federal/state funding decisions).

The issues recommended by Councilmember Leventhal for further research and analysis are:

<b>Topics</b>	<b>Follows up on these issues</b>	<b>Report page reference</b>
1. Jobs and earnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of jobs</li><li>• Employee earnings</li></ul>	Pages 26-27
2. Cost of development/ impact fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Structure of government</li><li>• Economic development</li></ul>	Pages 24-30
3. County-funded economic development functions and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Structure of government</li></ul>	Pages 4-9
4. Public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vital statistics on births, deaths, and diseases</li></ul>	Pages 57-61
5. Traffic and mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transportation infrastructure</li><li>• Vehicle miles traveled</li><li>• Travel time to work</li></ul>	Pages 31-35

# APPENDIX

# Office of Legislative Oversight Report 2010-5

## Comparative Data on Montgomery County and Fairfax County

### APPENDIX: LIST OF SOURCES

#### **Chapter II: Overview of Montgomery County and Fairfax County**

##### 1. Montgomery County

- Montgomery County Council  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cs!tmpl.asp?url=/content/council/about/about.asp>
- Montgomery County Government
  - <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/mcginfo/county/welcome.asp>
  - [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/omb/fy10/appr/psp\\_pdf/mcg.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/omb/fy10/appr/psp_pdf/mcg.pdf)
- Montgomery County Public Schools
  - <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/>
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  - Virginia Department of Health, Health Statistics: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/healthstats/FairfaxCo08.asp>
3. Infant Mortality
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  - Virginia Department of Health, Health Statistics: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/healthstats/FairfaxCo08.asp>
4. Sexually Transmitted Diseases
  - Office on Women’s Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: [http://www.healthstatus2010.com/owh/select\\_variables.aspx](http://www.healthstatus2010.com/owh/select_variables.aspx)
    - Chlamydia: Category - Disease, Variable - Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Total Total Chlamydia
    - HIV: Category – Disease, Variable – AIDS and HIV, Total Total Age 13+ HIV
5. Health Risk Data
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), SMART (City and County Data): <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSS-SMART/>
    - 2007 - Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division (Click on Fairfax County)
    - 2007 - Bethesda-Gaithersburg-Frederick, MD Metropolitan Division (Click on Montgomery County)